HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

15 October 2026

NAME:	Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex	**PLACE:**	26633
ADDRESS:	Kaurna Country 202-206 Main Road, McLaren Vale		

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 criterion (g) of Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.



View of Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex

Source: DEW, 2026

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Heritage Significance:

Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex demonstrates the important contribution of Thomas Hardy & Sons Ltd, formed in 1884, to South Australia's wine industry for over a century. Occupying the site of the former McLaren Vale Union flour mill (constructed 1852-1853), the company, named for its founder, Thomas Hardy, used the site as a base from which to expand the scope of its operations. It was here that Thomas Hardy & Sons initially concentrated on developing blended wines of consistent quality, using

grapes from its McLaren Vale vineyards, some of which were marketed under the 'Tintara' label. By 1894, Hardy's was the colony's largest wine producer and responsible for successfully expanding South Australia's wine export market both nationally and internationally. In the twentieth century Thomas Hardy & Sons manufactured its premium wines at Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex, which became its centre of wine making in McLaren Vale.

Relevant South Australian Historical Themes

4. Building Settlements, Towns and Cities

4.4. Making regional centres

5. Developing South Australia's economies

5.3. Developing primary production

5.4. Developing the wine industry

5.11. Developing SA's tourism industry (welcoming tourists and visitors)

Comparative Analysis:

Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex is associated with flour mills, McLaren Vale, wineries, and with prominent South Australian winemaking firm, Thomas Hardy & Sons. Each association is considered in turn.

Flour mills

Flour was an important export commodity for South Australia, with around one hundred flour mills established during the state's wheat boom (c.1850 to 1870). By 1884, 84,000 tons of flour was being sold per annum to the other Australian colonies and overseas markets.[1] As grain production declined, mills were sometimes converted to secondary processing including flax and wattle bark.

Flour milling is well represented in the South Australian Heritage Register (the Register), with 28 flour mills and 6 other structures/buildings associated with flour milling entered in the Register as State Heritage Places.

Examples on the Fleurieu Peninsula include:

- Former Mill [Former Ferguson's Flour Mill], SHP 10348 (Williss Drive, Normanville; Yankalilla), confirmed in the Register 6 May 1982.
- Former Mill [Leonards Mill], SHP 10347 (South Road, Second Valley; Yankalilla), confirmed in the Register 24 July 1980.
- Angas Mill, SHP 11595 (27 Commercial Road, Strathalbyn; Alexandrina), confirmed in the Register 5 April 1984.
- Former Mill, SHP 10352 (16 Gibson Avenue, Victor Harbor; Victor Harbor).
- Former Mill [The Mill (former Middleton Flour Mill)], SHP 10356 (Mill Terrace, Middleton; Alexandrina), confirmed in the Register 24 July 1980.



Former Mill [Leonards Mill], Second Valley

Source: DEW, 2025



Former Mill [Former Ferguson's Flour Mill], Normanville

Source: DEW, c.1980s



Angas Mill, Strathalbyn

Source: DEW, 2022



Former Mill [former Middleton Flour Mill]

Source: DEW, 2011

McLaren Vale

The township of McLaren Vale in the region 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. Vines were frequently planted, although it is not always certain whether these bore grapes for dried fruit production, wine or both.

Commercial winemaking commenced in the 1850s, at George Pitches Manning's property, Hope Farm (later Seaview Winery (SHP 14502)) and followed 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 winery and commercial vineyard of over 80 acres established by Dr Alexander Kelly at Blewitt Springs from 1862-1863 (subject of a separate assessment).

After Kelly's death, in 1877-1878 winemaker Thomas Hardy purchased the Tintara winery and vineyard at Blewitt Springs and leased the old McLaren Vale 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 typically a few years after the establishment of vineyards, when increased bearing capacity and wine production realised funding. By the mid-twentieth century, McLaren Vale had become one of South Australia's premium wine regions.

Only two State Heritage Places exist within the township of McLaren Vale proper: the Congregational church (Religious Building - Former Congregational Church Complex; SHP 26273) and its associated cemetery (SHP 14069). There are five State Heritage Places beyond the township in the McLaren Vale region, 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 when the planting of 30 acres of vines commenced in the 1850s; it was the first commercial winery in McLaren Vale (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; and later owned by Chief Justice, Sir Samuel Way. Now used as a winery, it was listed as an early homestead complex.
- 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 Winery (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).

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

Wineries

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 including McLaren Vale (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).

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.[2]

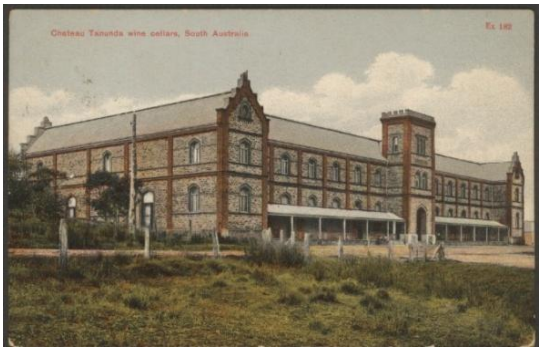
Some representative examples of early wineries include:

- Hardy's Reynella Winery, SHP 12720 (38-44 Panalatinga Road, Old Reynella; Onkaparinga), confirmed in the Register 23 November 1989.
- Winery and Cemetery – Seppeltsfield Winery and Mausoleum, SHP 12963 (Seppeltsfield Road, Seppeltsfield via Nuriootpa; Light Regional Council), confirmed in the Register on 23 November 1989.
- Sevenhill Complex, comprising St Aloysius Catholic Church, St Aloysius College, Sevenhill Cellars and Sevenhill Cemetery, SHP 13056 (College Road, Sevenhill via Clare; Clare and Gilbert Valleys), confirmed in the Register on 8 November 2001 under s16 criteria (a), (b), (e), (f) and (g).
- Winery - Morialta Winery, SHP 13458 (Colonial Drive, Norton Summit; Adelaide Hills), confirmed in the Register on 28 May 1987.
- Chateau Tanunda - First Cellars, Distilling Tower, Spirit Bond Store, Galvanised Sheds & Brick Chimney, SHP 10325 (9 Basedow Road, Tanunda; Barossa), conformed in the Register 22 September 1994 under s16 criteria (a), (d), (e) and (f).



Seppeltsfield wine cellar, c.1945

Source: D. Darian Smith; SLSA, B54752



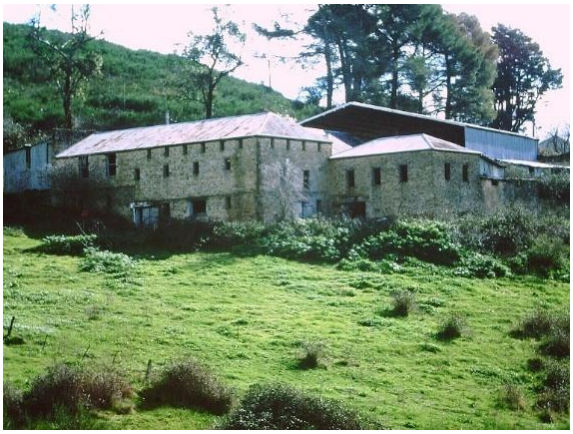
Chateau Tanunda

Source: SLSA, B327 13, c.1910



Barrel Hall, Sevenhill

Source: DEW, 2020



Morialta Winery Complex

Source: DEW, 1984

Thomas Hardy & Sons

Thomas Hardy & Sons was established by winemaker and agriculturist Thomas Hardy (1830-1912), who is widely recognised as the father of South Australia's wine industry.[3] Hardy commenced winemaking at Bankside (now Adelaide suburbs Underdale and Torrensville) in 1853, and began his association with McLaren Vale in the late 1870s.

Thomas Hardy & Sons (hereafter Hardy's), is one of the oldest family-owned companies in South Australia. Established in 1887, the firm remained under the sole ownership and control of the Hardy family until 1992. While the merger of Hardy's with Berri Renmano to form BRL Hardy in 1992 ended this long period of continuous single-family control, wines sold under the Hardy's label continued to be made at Hardy's McLaren Vale cellars until 2026, including their flagship wines.

There are two State Heritage Places associated with Hardy's:

- Hardy's Reynella Winery, SHP 12720 (38-44 Panalatinga Road, Old Reynella; Onkaparinga), 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 (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 it was confirmed in the Register on 5 April 1984.



Chateau Reynella, Hardy's Reynella Winery

Source: DEW, 2018



Hardy's Wine Cellars [now Temple Christian College], Mile End

Source: South Australian History Network, public domain (CC0 1.0), via Flickr.com, 2012

There are four Local Heritage Places associated with Hardy's:

- Former Tintara Winery Ruins, Manager's Cottage and Worker's Cottage - remnants of the Tintara winery, including slate fermentation tanks and two worker's cottages (207 Whitings Road, Blewitt Springs; Onkaparinga) (subject of a separate assessment).
- Dwelling (former Morphett Vale Union Chapel) (52 Bains Road, Morphett Vale; Onkaparinga), used as a wine cellar for about 17 years.
- Cottage – 'Glen Hardy' (128 Hunt Road, McLaren Vale; Onkaparinga), set within a vineyard purchased by Thomas Hardy.
- Hotel (208-210 Main Road, McLaren Vale; Onkaparinga), Thomas Hardy used it as a 'wine and refreshment shop' and his 'headquarters when he visited his winery' in Mclaren Vale.

There is a further State Heritage Place associated with the Hardy family, 'Hardy House,' SHP 14465, (44 Maitland Terrace, Seacliff). Notably it was the home of Tom Mayfield Hardy and his wife, Eileen, who became the face of Hardy's as its brand ambassador after Tom was killed in a plane crash in 1938. It was also the childhood home of Sir James Hardy who had executive and non-executive roles with Hardy's until it was purchased by Accolade Wines in 2003.

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.
>
> The place should be closely associated with events, developments or cultural phases that have played a significant part in South Australian history.

Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex (hereafter Hardy's Winery) is associated with the themes and subthemes identified in Relevant South Australian Historical Themes, on p.2.

Hardy's Winery is associated with the development of the township of McLaren Vale from the twin rural settlements of Gloucester and Bellevue into a thriving regional town that served primary production and the wine industry and later tourism. In particular, it is associated with Thomas Hardy & Sons and the work of that company to grow the wine industry in South Australia from the late nineteenth century until the early twenty-first century. However, Hardy's Winery is one of many wineries in South Australia and McLaren Vale, including several that are State Heritage Places. Unlike those other wineries, for example Kay Brothers Amery Winery (SHP 14506), Hardy's Winery was adaptively reused, not purpose-built. Consequently, in this instance the historical importance of the place is its special association with a company of historical importance to South Australia, which is better demonstrated under criterion (g).

Hardy's Winery has been associated with tourism in McLaren Vale since the late 1890s, hosting events that attract regional, national, and international visitors. For example the Hardy's Vintage Fete, begun in 1890 and later relocated to McLaren Vale, ran for around forty years. Its successor, the McLaren Vale Wine Show and Bushing Festival, emerged in the 1960s and continues today. The site now includes a heritage interpretation centre and arts facilities, and hosts events such as 'CLINK McLaren Vale.' However, Hardy's Winery is one of many wine tourism sites attracting visitors to South Australia, including to the Barossa and Clare Valleys, the Coonawarra, and Adelaide Hills. Currently, there is no evidence to suggest that its use as a tourism venue has made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to this aspect of South Australia's history.

It is recommended that the Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex **does not satisfy** criterion (a).

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

The place must demonstrate qualities of cultural significant 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).

Hardy's Winery represents a substantial nineteenth-century and twentieth-century industrial complex that demonstrates both flour milling and winemaking in South Australia. While both industries are of cultural significance to South Australia there are approximately 100 mills and nearly seven hundred wineries still in existence with many still operational businesses. Accordingly, Hardy's Winery is not considered to be rare, uncommon, or endangered.

It is recommended that the Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex **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.

The buildings and structures at the Hardy's Winery site are typical of many such structures constructed in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries for milling and wine production. While it is likely there will be archaeological deposits related to these uses, there is no evidence to suggest that any such deposits will contribute anything new and/or meaningful to our understanding of the State's natural or cultural history that isn't already well-documented through a range of primary and secondary sources, including documents, reports, maps, photographs, oral histories, etc.

It is recommended that the Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex **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.
>
> The class of place should be of cultural significance in a state-wide context. The place should be outstanding when compared with other places in the class.

Hardy's Winery is a mixed-use site that combines the classes of place known as 'mill' and 'winery.' Numerous examples of both classes of place exist in South Australia (see Comparative Analysis).

The site of Hardy's Winery was developed from the early 1850s and comprises the mill building and chimney (constructed 1852-54; chimney rebuilt c.1930s, mill building partly demolished 1970s); a cellars and distillery building, which was originally attached to, and part of, the mill building (c.1853; extended c.1880-1895 and again in the twentieth century), two stone cottages (c.1870s), a water tank (c.1890s), a bond store (1896-97), and a warehouse (c.1930s; later extended).

As Hardy's Winery is a hybrid class of place, it is not considered to be an outstanding representative of either a mill or winery as it comprises both bespoke and adapted elements from each to meet the operational needs of its owners over a century. The original mill chimney (1854) no longer exists and the extant chimney appears to have been rebuilt (c.1930s). The former mill buildings were adapted for use as a winery, and later extended to increase the cellars' storage capacity and create new infrastructure. Consequently, it can't be considered to be influential in defining either class, nor does it encapsulate a key evolutionary stage in the development of either class as clearly or consistently as places that were bespoke designed or served a specialised function. The adapted buildings do not represent technical innovations in the design of wineries, and do not represent a particular sub-class of winery buildings, such as gravity-fed wineries, which are represented in the Register by places such as

Hillside House and Wine Cellars (SHP 12269, Lyndoch), now known as Torbreck Hillside Vineyard, or Clarendon Winery Complex (SHP 11193, Clarendon).

It is recommended that the Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex **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.

In its architectural features and construction materials and methods, Hardy's Winery demonstrates the vernacular building characteristics and traditions of McLaren Vale and the southern Fleurieu district during the mid- to late-nineteenth century. While the buildings are a well composed set of structures, most have been altered over time, for example the reconstruction of the chimney and extensions to the mill buildings. Nor do they demonstrate qualities of innovation or departure, beauty or formal design, or represent a new achievement for the time. Consequently, Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex is not considered to demonstrate a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or to be an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.

It is recommended that the Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex **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.

Hardy's Winery may hold strong cultural associations for the McLaren Vale community, employees of Hardy's and others with a special interest in wine and viticulture. Purchased by Thomas Hardy in 1877-1878, Hardy's Winery was initially a depot that from the early twentieth century became the base of Hardy's McLaren Vale operations, the home of Hardy's premium wine production and a venue for long standing community events such as the Bushing Festival. However, Hardy's Winery is one of many wineries in McLaren Vale and one of several sites associated with Hardy's meaning that any attachment that does exist for those groups is split across multiple sites. Consequently, there is no evidence to suggest that the attachment that any of these groups may have for Hardy's Winery is stronger than their attachment to other similar places.

It is recommended that the Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex **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.

Hardy's Winery is closely associated with the firm of Thomas Hardy & Sons, one of South Australia's most influential winemaking firms. Thomas Hardy arrived in South Australia in 1850, working briefly for others including with John Reynell at his winery, before travelling to Victoria to make money in the gold rush. Returning to South Australia, Hardy purchased Bankside in 1853. At Bankside, Hardy established a vineyard and collaborated with experts such as Dr Richard Schomburgk, Director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden, to test new grape varieties, growing conditions and also helped to protect the Colony's emerging wine industry as a member of the Phylloxera Board.

In 1877, Hardy expanded to McLaren Vale, purchasing Tintara Vineyard Company's Blewitt Springs property, the Tintara winery and vineyard. At that time, he also leased the former McLaren Vale Union mill, purchasing it in 1879 for use as a produce store and cellar. The growing success of his business led Hardy to create, in 1887, the limited

liability company Thomas Hardy & Sons (Hardy's) with sons James, Thomas and Robert. By 1894, Hardy's was the colony's largest wine producer and responsible for successfully expanding South Australia's wine export market. Hardy's continued to develop the mill site into what is now Hardy's Winery to include a winery and later, a distillery including site infrastructure such as the water tank, basket presses, bluestone cottages, bond store, and the original component of the warehouse building.

Hardy's continued to expand its operations across South Australia, including in the Barossa Valley and at Waikerie, sourcing grapes from smaller growers. In 1901, Hardy's trade marked the 'Tintara' label, then in the early twentieth century, the loss of Bankside due to fire, and the closure of the Tintara Blewitt Springs winery in the 1920s resulted in the Hardy's Winery site becoming the focus of Hardy's wine making in McLaren Vale. It is here that Hardy's premium wines such as its famous old vine McLaren Vale shiraz, named after matriarch and brand ambassador, Eileen Hardy, were made.

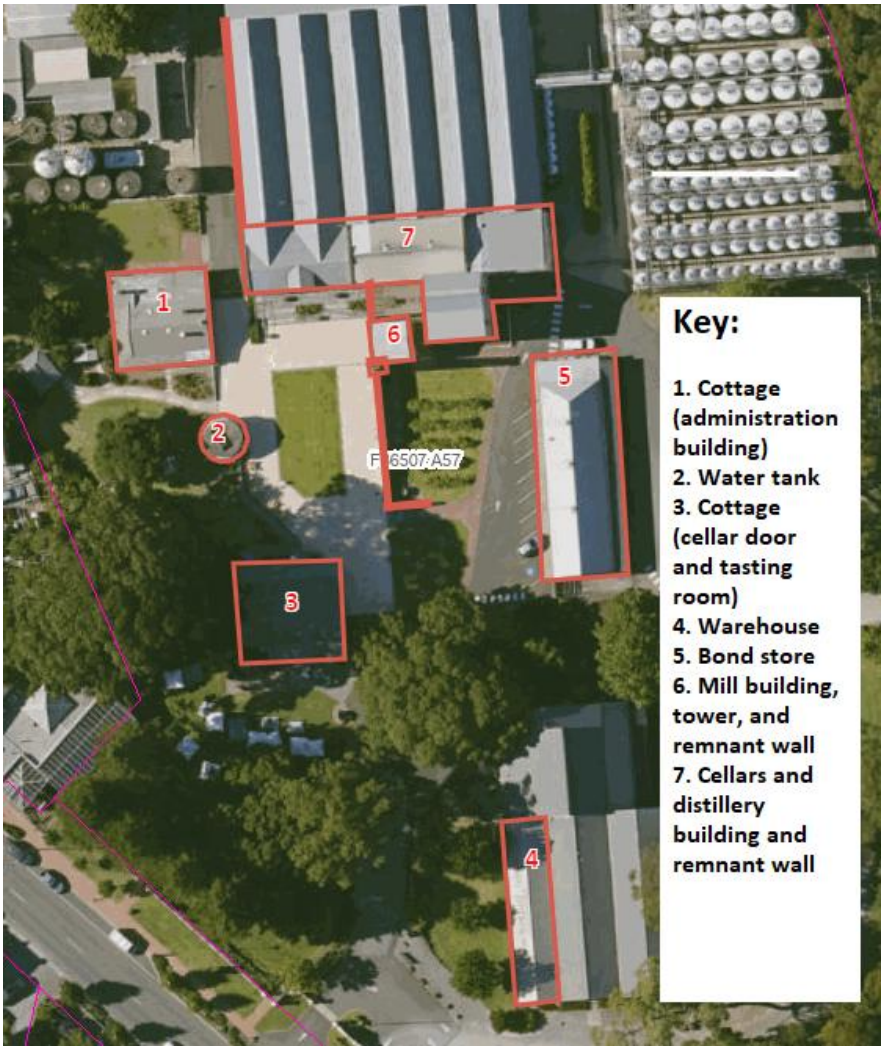
Thomas Hardy & Sons continued to operate under sole family ownership until 1992, when it merged with Berri Renmano Limited to form BRL Hardy Limited. BRL Hardy was then acquired by Constellation Brands in 2003. While there has been a succession of owners since, the Hardy's and 'Tintara' names remain prominent with the latest owner, Vinarchy Wines producing the last Hardy's and 'Tintara' vintages at Hardy's Winery in 2026.

While there are several places associated with Thomas Hardy & Sons in the Register (see Comparative Analysis), with the exception of Hardy's Reynella Winery, SHP 12720 none demonstrate the winemaking aspect of this important South Australian company. However, the association between Hardy's and the Reynella Winery is fleeting in comparison to Hardy's Winery, as Hardy's didn't purchase the Reynella winery until 1982, and Thomas Hardy only worked for John Reynell for a few months in 1850. Hardy's association with the Hardy's Winery site has endured for over a century.

It is for these reasons that Hardy's Winery has a special association with Thomas Hardy & Sons. It is recommended that the Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex **satisfies** criterion (g).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex is a large complex of nineteenth and twentieth-century structures associated with the production and cellaring of wine. The site consists of a former mill building and chimney, cellars and distillery building, two cottages, bond store, water tank, warehouse, and a collection of later twentieth century buildings, and concrete and metal tanks associated with wine production. There are also several established trees planted in the nineteenth century, now surrounded by expanses of lawn, and vine plantings that date from the late twentieth century. Several garden beds, planted in the twenty-first century are also present across the site.



1. Cottage (administration building)

The cottage is a bluestone (part now painted), split level, gable roofed cottage, with two brick chimneys and lean-to to rear with skillion, constructed in c.1870s-1890s. Internally the cottage features:

- Mixed flooring including Willunga slate, jarrah, and pine,
- Slate thresholds and external steps,

- Chamfered ceilings with applied boards to some rooms,
- A mixture of paned sash and casement windows, some with angled internal reveals,
- Split-level verandah to eastern elevation, with squared timber posts, concrete floor, and corrugated metal clad roof.

2. Water tank

A large, brick and stone, circular water tank, approximately seven metres in diameter constructed c.1890, with four reinforcing steel bands added later. The original domed roof with brick buttresses has been altered and the tank is now roofed with flat metal sheeting.

3. Cottage (cellar door and tasting room)

A symmetrical, blue stone cottage, constructed c.1870s-1890s, featuring a M-shaped, double gable roof, with hipped roof infill (later addition), clad in corrugated sheet metal (not original fabric), now used as a cellar door and tasting room. The cottage features:

- Timber sash windows, with masonry dressings,
- Arched feature window and glazed doorway to southern elevation (may not be original fabric),
- Internal floors of Willunga slate (likely re-laid) and engineered timber (not original fabric),
- Some panelled timber doors c.1920s-1930s,
- Boxed ceiling beams and timber ceiling lining (not original fabric),
- Skillion verandah to southern elevation, with lean-to masonry extension, featuring square timber posts, Willunga slate floor, and gabled portico to north (not original fabric), clad in corrugated metal.

4. Warehouse

The original part of the warehouse was constructed c.1930s, and it has been subsequently extended and rebuilt over the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The warehouse features a triple gable roof, with steel trusses, clad in corrugated metal and has painted masonry blockwork and unpainted brick walls, and a concrete floor. It is currently used as an arts space, including studios and gallery, café and shop and contains large antique timber vats and two basket presses, one screw-operated.

5. Bond store

Large, single storey, bluestone building constructed 1896-1897 with red brick quoins and surrounds to doors and windows, with later red-brick extension to northern end and verandah to eastern elevation. Gable and hipped roof to bluestone structure, sloped to brick addition and verandah, clad in corrugated sheet metal. Internally, exposed timber trusses with metal tie rods and timber panelling to ceiling. Other features include:

- Lime mortar mixed with bluestone rubble, obtained from the adjacent Pedlar Creek,
- Willunga slate floors,
- Leadlight window made by Eileen Hardy, representing Bacchus, the Roman god of wine, and
- Double doors and light to western elevation.

6. The Mill

The mill was constructed in 1852-1854 and was partly demolished in the twentieth century. The chimney appears to have been demolished, rebuilt and then altered in c.1930s. The mill is a two-story bluestone structure with gable roof clad in corrugated metal sheeting. The gable ends are capped with red brick. The chimney is constructed from red brick, which has also been used to create a decorative curved band above the door and window lintels in the mill building. The mill also features:

- Willunga slate floors to the lower level, and hardwood floors above, with timber bearers (some replaced),
- French door with leadlight by Eileen Hardy above (c.1930s) to western elevation,
- Sliding metal door to ground floor, eastern elevation,
- Leadlight window by Eileen Hardy (c.1930s) to eastern elevation, altered from what was previously a larger opening,
- New brick coursework to interior at ground level divides the space and reinforces the walls (late twentieth-century construction),
- Projecting bluestone wing walls to north and south, remnants of the building's original form (likely reconstructed, using original materials).

7. Cellars and distillery building

The cellars were adapted for use as a winery and distillery from a cluster of mid-nineteenth-century bluestone mill buildings. From this core, the structure has been altered and significantly extended, with major additions c.1930s and through the twentieth century. Featuring:

- **Wine-tasting and cellars**:
  - Three-storey building, of rectangular form,
  - Gable roof, with pedimented gable ends, clad with corrugated metal,
  - Thick bluestone masonry walls with lime mortar,
  - Paned timber windows,
  - Heavy, hand-hewn redgum beams, some with autographs of previous winemakers,
  - Remnant wall-mounted brass valve fittings from previous cellar cooling system, installed by Thomas Hardy,
  - Willunga slate floor to lower level; concrete floors have been laid to some areas,
  - Hardwood floors to upper levels,

- With adjoining timber deck to south (modern construction),
- First-floor trapdoor through to floor below,
- Contains visitor facilities including interpretive displays, tasting areas, glass partitions to internal openings, enabling views into Cellar No. 1,
- Many relics of the Hardy family and the business of Thomas Hardy & Sons, including pot still, framed historic photographs of the Hardy's McLaren Vale winery site, and portrait painting in oils of Eileen Hardy by Robert Hannaford.

- **Visitor centre and winery**:
  - Two-storey building, of bluestone masonry construction and lime mortar with brick dressing and gable roof clad in corrugated metal, with pedimented western gable end,
  - Central gable/pediment to south, constructed of brick (not original fabric),
  - Glazed sliding doors and timber thresholds to southern openings (modern construction),
  - Paned timber window to west, and feature leadlight window beneath pediment to south (likely made by Eileen Hardy),
  - Interpretive displays documenting the history of Thomas Hardy & Sons, and relics of winery operations including a hand-operated basket press,
  - Entrance podium, access ramp and steps to south (modern construction),
  - Internal proscenium at first-floor level (entered via forecourt) with view over the modern winery building to the north (modern construction),
  - Remnant bluestone wall, part of the original structure, extends north from the core of the original building, and is incorporated into the modern extension,
  - A large, steel-framed modern winery has been constructed to the rear on the north side of the original building.
- **Mill cellars**:
  - Three-storey building, with bluestone masonry walls, with lime mortar,
  - Skillion roof, clad in corrugated metal,
  - Lower floor of Willunga slate, and upper floors of hardwood,
  - Heavy redgum beams (original fabric), and steel support beams (late twentieth-century addition).
- **Distillery**:
  - Large industrial structure, with steel framing, clad in corrugated metal,
  - Gable and skillion roof, clad in corrugated metal,
  - Paned timber sash and casement windows,
  - Upper access floors and internal ceiling framing of timber, and steel access ladders,
  - Contains large still by Whitehill Ltd. Adelaide, and remnant chimney of steel or iron, attached to what was previously an external wall of the mill cellars,

- Contains antique winery machinery by Grilliat-Jaeger (Epernay, France) including corking machine and other late nineteenth-century/early twentieth-century relics of Thomas Hardy & Sons operations, including horse-drawn timber cart (painted 'Hardy's St Thomas Burgundy'),
- Large industrial access doors of painted metal.

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include:

- 1. Whole of the cottage (administration building), including original form and materials;
- 2. Circular water tank;
- 3. Part of the cottage (cellar door and tasting room), as marked, including original form and materials;
- 4. Part of warehouse (Fleurieu Arthouse) building as marked, including original form and materials, six large wine vats, and three basket presses on iron trollies, located in adjacent extension;
- 5. Whole of the bond store, including original form and materials and leadlight window by Eileen Hardy;
- 6. Whole of original mill building, tower, and remnant wall, as marked, including original form and materials and leadlight windows to French door and eastern elevation by Eileen Hardy;
- 7. Part of the cellars and distillery building, as marked, including original form and materials; and including wall-mounted brass valve fittings to wine-tasting and cellars; autographs of previous head winemakers to timber beams of wine-tasting and cellars; leadlight window and basket press to visitor centre and winery; and still by Whitehill Ltd Adelaide with steel chimney to distillery.
- 7. Remnant wall to cellars and distillery building, as marked, situated on the west side of the building and extending north,
- Bust of Thomas Hardy by John Dowie, on bluestone and slate plinth, with bronze commemorative signage (1978), situated near southern entrance to cellars and distillery building.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include:

- Entrance gates and perimeter fence to Main Road street frontage, of rendered masonry, bluestone, and metal;
- Privacy fencing to rear of cottage (cellar door and tasting room), of timber and metal;
- Lean-to extension with arched window to front (southern) façade of cottage (cellar door and tasting room);
- Portico to rear of cottage (cellar door and tasting room);
- Other perimeter fencing to site, including timber post-and-rail fencing to Main Road street frontage and aluminium tube fencing to south-eastern boundary (The Almond Train visitor attraction);
- Bitumenised driveway, car access, and car parking form and layout;

- Concrete / bitumenised road approaching Pedler Creek road bridge;
- Paved courtyard to cellars and distillery building and mill building;
- Lettering to brick façade / pediment of cellars and distillery building ('Hardy's Tintara');
- Slate-paved podium, entrance steps, handrails, built-in flower beds, and access ramp to cellars and distillery building;
- Timber decking and glass and metal safety rails to mill building;
- Timber french doors with lights to mill building;
- Glass safety fence on wall to mill building;
- Twentieth-century (c.1930s) additions to warehouse (Fleurieu Arthouse) building;
- Painted signage (Hardy's Tintara Wineries) to roof of warehouse (Fleurieu Arthouse) building;
- Signage and artworks to western façade of warehouse (Fleurieu Arthouse) building;
- All modern winery infrastructure to north, west, and east of the cellars and distillery building;
- Wayfinding signage and site lighting;
- Grapevine plantings to south and east of cellars and distillery building;
- Site landscaping, including native and exotic trees, hedges, perennial plants, shrubs, and lawns / grassed areas.

HISTORY

McLaren Vale

McLaren Vale is located at the northern end of Fleurieu Peninsula and has for thousands of years formed a part of the traditional lands of the Kaurna people.[4] 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.[5]

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.[6] 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.'[7]

Government land surveys were completed in areas south of Adelaide by 1838, and released for sale in 1840.[8] Debate still continues as to whether the Vale is named for surveyor John McLaren or resident manager of the South Australian Company David McLaren.[9] Wheat was a primary crop of early settlers and was led by pioneering farmers including Charles Thomas Hewett and William Colton.[10] Many mills were

erected to make flour including at White's Valley (1848), Second Valley (1849), Strathalbyn (1849), McLaren Vale (1852) and Normanville (1856).[11] 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.[12] However, it was the wine industry that would have the most significant and lasting impact on McLaren Vale's economy, environment and culture.

The birth of McLaren Vale's wine industry

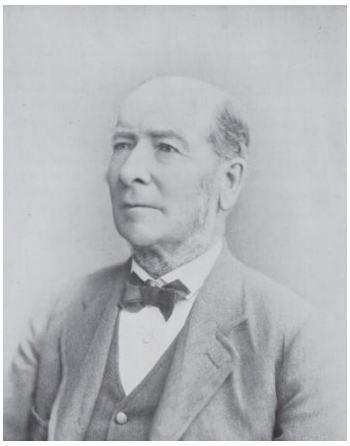
Commercial-scale winemaking began in McLaren Vale in the 1850s at Hope Farm. Between 1860 and 1870, South Australia's wine industry transformed from single-owner, small-scale vineyards to major industrial operations, backed by investors.[13] In McLaren Vale, the first major injection of capital came from the Tintara Vineyard Company, established in 1861. Led by Dr Alexander Charles Kelly and underwritten by five notable businessman including Thomas Elder and Robert Barr-Smith, the Company purchased land and founded a vineyard and winery at Blewitt Springs (1862-1863). Until the late 1870s, with over 80 acres under vines, Tintara Blewitt Springs was the largest and indeed, together with Hope Farm, one of only two commercial wineries in McLaren Vale.

Tintara vintages from the 1860s were marketed in Britain and Europe via Tintara Vineyard Company's London agent, Peter Bond Burgoyne, and were presented at European, British and American exhibitions including the Vienna Exhibition (1875) and the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition (1876).[14] The name 'Tintara' became especially associated with claret or 'Burgundy-style' wine, meaning 'pure' (not fortified) red table wines of quality.[15] Tintara Vineyard Company continued to operate into the mid-1870s, when it foundered under the combined pressure of tariff barriers, distribution issues and consumer preferences.[16]

Thomas Hardy

After Kelly, Thomas Hardy was the second major agent in expanding the wine industry in McLaren Vale (also see Comparative Analysis). Hardy and the company he founded, Thomas Hardy & Sons, played 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 from the West Country, England.[17] His first employment was with John Reynell, at Reynella Farm, and later on a cattle station near Normanville.[18] The following year, Hardy left for the Victorian goldfields, driving a herd of cattle which he later sold for meat.[19] The profit he made enabled him to purchase land at Bankside (now Underdale) where in 1853-1854 he planted grapes and established a mixed farm that was to become the cornerstone of his wine business empire.[20] In 1859, Hardy sent two hogsheads of wine to England containing 1857 Bankside vintage; this shipment was one of the first exports of wine sent from South Australia.[21]

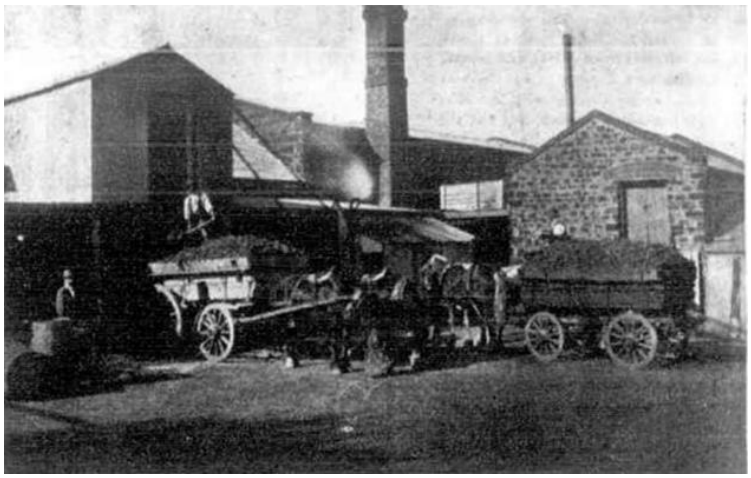


Photographic portrait of Thomas Hardy

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

Hardy's success at Bankside enabled him to expand and in 1877-1878 he purchased Tintara Vineyard Company's established winery and vineyard at Blewitt Springs. The purchase included the vineyard, winery, and stock totalling 27,000 gallons of wine. The sale of Kelly's wine paid for the purchase of the property.[22] Hardy kept the well-known and established name, 'Tintara', later trademarking it in 1901.[23]

While Tintara's vines were now in full production, poor local roads and the lack of rail transport inhibited distribution of its wines.[24] By 1878, Thomas Hardy had leased the former McLaren Vale mill site,[25] and subsequently purchased it as a produce store, cellar and depot for Tintara.[26] This became Hardy's operational centre in McLaren Vale from where wines were cellared and dried fruit crops stored before being sold. Initially referred to as 'Bellevue' after the village in which it was situated, it became known as 'the Mill' or 'McLaren Vale'.



'Unloading grapes at McLaren Vale Winery'

Source: Adelaide Observer, Sat. 25 April 1903, p,24.

Winemaker John G. Kelly, son of Dr. A.C. Kelly, was appointed manager for Hardy's McLaren Vale holdings in 1892, while Hardy managed the Bankside operation.[27] Two years later, Hardy further expanded his business in McLaren Vale by purchasing 640 hectares of land adjacent to Tintara Blewitt Springs. This enabled him to construct a road along the full length of his vineyards, joining up with the main road and improving accessibility to his Blewitt Springs site.[28] Additional land was also purchased to the north of the McLaren Vale cellars, and a vineyard established there and known as 'Aldinga.'[29] As the Mclaren Vale holdings of Thomas Hardy and Sons expanded, the vineyard sites came to be distinguished as 'Lower Tintara' and 'Upper Tintara' (Tintara Blewitt Springs)

Although the mill buildings were sited above ground, their thick walls kept the wine cellared in them at a constant temperature.[30] An excavation was made in the mid-1880s to increase cellarage.[31] In the 1890s, John G. Kelly installed a water-driven cooling system[32] to cool the fermenting must, fed by a dam, constructed uphill above the winery site, with water channelled down to the cellars through a system of pipes. Thomas Hardy & Sons was reported at the time to have been, alongside Seppelt's, the first Australian winery business to have installed such a system.[33]

The cooling system was one of many changes and alterations made to the winery over subsequent decades, including the construction of water tanks and railways for transporting produce, installation of distilling and other equipment, replanting of vineyards, renewal of infrastructure, and expansion of cellarage and storage facilities. It was said that 'The winery at McLaren Vale is one of the largest and best-equipped in the colonies', with its cellars containing 'no less than 300,000 gallons of wine'.[34] The winery employed a large number of vineyard hands at vintage time, and purchased large quantities of grapes from local growers: in 1895, the firm purchased 1,340 tonnes of grapes at the Maclaren [sic] Vale winery alone, for which over £2000 was distributed among 44 growers.'[35] At this time, two sets of boilers and engines powered the winery and distillery.[36]

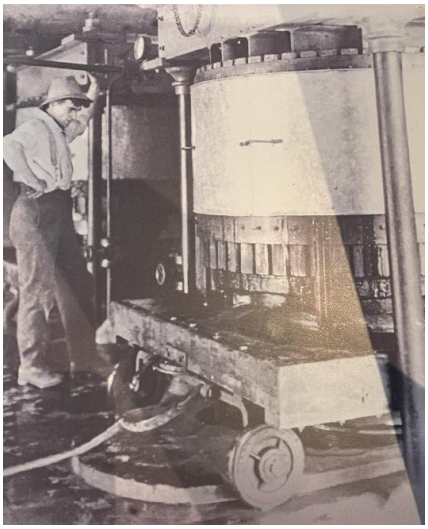
Foundation of Thomas Hardy & Sons

In 1887, Thomas 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.[37] Five years later, in an 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.[38]

Hardy built a large cellar on the eastern side of his Bankside property for the maturing and blending of wines for export (Hardy's Wine Cellars SHP 12365). Hardy's Wine Cellars later became the head office of Thomas Hardy & Sons Pty Ltd, also functioning as a major handling depot and Hardy's main cooperage.[39]

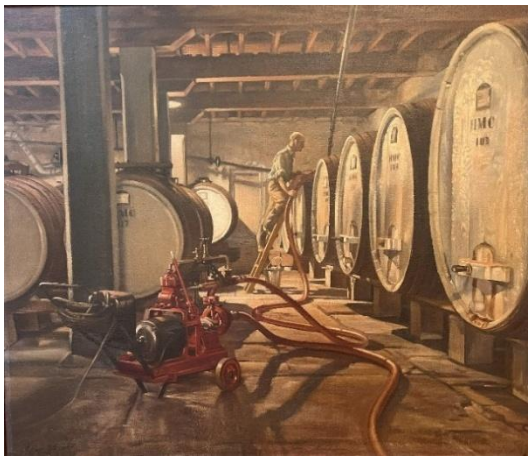
In 1904, the 'Bankside' winery and Thomas Hardy's home was destroyed by fire. Following the deaths of two of his sons, James (1904) and Thomas (1911), Hardy gradually withdrew from public life,[40] and died in 1912.

Despite the First World War and the deaths of Thomas Senior and Junior and James, Hardy's continued to expand in the twentieth century. Thomas Hardy & Sons commenced manufacturing spirits to pursue Australian consumers' preference for sweet, fortified wines and established new winery sites at Waikerie in the Riverland, and in the Barossa.[41]



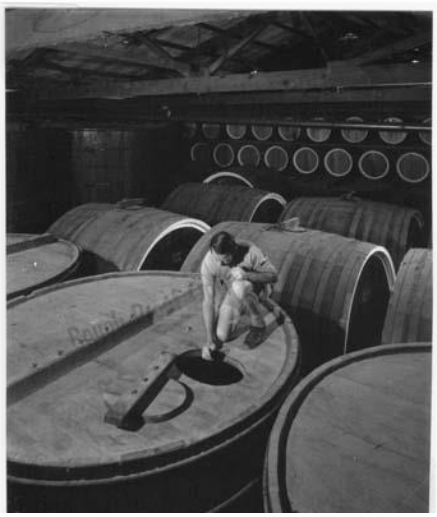
Worker operating basket press, c.1930s. Hardy's Winery heritage display.

Source: DEW, 2026



Clive Stoward (artist), 'Ivan 'Hockey' Dyer, Filling 500-gallon casks in 1 Cellar, Tintara Cellars, McLaren Vale (Ground floor of the old Mill)', c.1930s, Displayed at Hardy's Winery.

Source: DEW, 2026



'Wine ageing in wood in the cellars of Thomas Hardy and Sons Pty Ltd, is checked for maturity before bottling and shipment abroad, Hardy's Wine, South Australia.

Source: NAA: B4498, 166F3 P3, Melbourne Val Foreman Photography, 1945-1986 Album 151.



Promotional exhibit for Thomas Hardy & Sons Ltd, Christchurch, New Zealand

Source: Powerhouse, 2002/105/1-2/39, c.1907.

The Waikerie holding was purchased in late 1914 or early 1915 and comprised 90 acres of irrigable land which was reported as being one of the largest individual holdings on the Murray.[42] Barossa winemaker Sam Sage, former manager of Angas Park distillery, was appointed to oversee the site together with a large irrigation orchard at Cyrilton. A new winery and distillery was opened on 13 February 1915 and had storage capacity for 130,000 gallons of wine.[43] Then in May, 'a staff of men began the erection of fencing, clearing, grubbing and grading,' in preparation for planting 60 acres of vines including Doradillo, Muscat, Gordo Blanco and Sweetwater.[44]

In 1920, Thomas Hardy & Sons sold the distillery to the Waikerie Co-operative Society and erected a winery on the Cyrilton property.[45] Sage continued to manage the site until his death in 1929.[46] Cyrilton was named after third generation Hardy family member, Robert Cyril Hardy, who volunteered to fight with the Australian Imperial Forces and, at the age of 23, lost his life near Bullecourt in France.[47]



Dorrien Wine Cellars [Siegersdorf].

Source: SLSA, B 69038, c.1926

In parallel with Waikerie/Cyrilton, Hardy's built a winery near Tanunda in the Barossa Valley, which was operational for the 1921 vintage.[48] A simple, functional building with pitched and corrugated iron roofs was erected close to the railway line. This enabled dessert wines to be sent to the Mile End cellars by train 'as soon as they were fortified.'[49] Known as the Dorrien Winery, the first manager was J.J. Stoward, followed by brothers Bert and Alfred Heinemann.[50] In 1960, Hardy's changed the winery's name to Siegersdorf.

Robert Hardy's cousin, Thomas [Tom] Mayfield Hardy, became general manager in 1928. Tragically, a decade later he was killed along with other S.A. winemakers Hugo Gramp and Sydney Smith in the Kyeema aircraft crash. His cousin, Ken Hardy, returned to Adelaide from Sydney to take over the company's general management. Tom Hardy's widow, Eileen Hardy OBE, became the public face of the company and was renowned for her personal warmth and hospitality.

Hardy's McLaren Vale winery with its historic cellars increasingly became a part of wine tourism marketing (see images below). Tourism marketing drew on the site's long-established role in festivals and celebrations bringing together townspeople and the wine industry. These included the McLaren Vale Wine Show and Bushing Festival, which grew partly out of the tradition of Hardy's Vintage Fete, begun in 1890 and later relocated to McLaren Vale. A 1955 wine touring map, aimed at the new class of weekend motorists, showed Thomas Hardy & Sons as one of ten featured wineries in McLaren Vale.[51]



Brandy stills, Hardy's McLaren Vale. Australian National Travel Association, 1947. One of the stills shown survives today, in its original location.

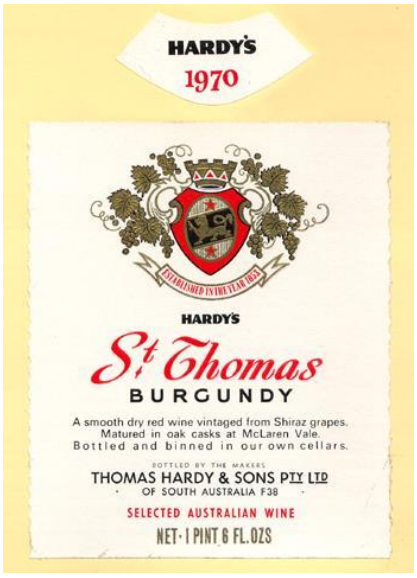
Source: State Library of NSW, FL20429645



No.1 Cellar, Hardy's McLaren Vale. Australian National Travel Association, 1947.

Source: State Library of NSW, FL20429642

In 1973, the first wine to carry the 'Eileen Hardy' label was produced, in honour of her contribution to Thomas Hardy & Sons. Reserved for the Company's best dry red vintage each year, the 1973 release was a wine made in 1972 from grapes grown at the Tintara vineyards at Blewitt Springs, fermented at Hardy's McLaren Vale winery, and binned at the company's Mile End cellars. Hardy's McLaren Vale would increasingly operate as a production centre for Hardy's premium wines, the last of the premium vintages anticipated to be made at their McLaren Vale winery was made in 2026.



Thomas Hardy & Sons wine label for 'St Thomas' Burgundy.

Source: SLSA, B2164179 S1, 1970.

A new era of expansion began in 1976, when Hardy's made its first corporate acquisition, purchasing the London-based Emu Wine Company.[52] Emu, a large exporter of Australian wines, owned Houghtons and Valencia wineries in Western Australia in addition to cellars at Morphett Vale. The wine industry was entering a heyday of mergers and acquisitions, and Thomas Hardy & Sons participated in this activity of consolidation and expansion. Consumer taste was also evolving from a preference for fortified wines to table wines. Harking back to its origins, Hardy's purchased Chateau Reynella as its headquarters. Hardy's now employed more than 450 people Australia-wide. 130 staff were based at Reynella, and 20 at McLaren Vale. The company reportedly commanded 10% of the Australian wine market. Local paper, the Hills Messenger, wrote that '*Hardy's are as much a part of the south as the Onkaparinga River.*'[53]

In 1992, Thomas Hardy & Sons merged with Berri Renmano Limited to form BRL Hardy Limited, a move that ended Hardy family's sole ownership.[54] In 2003, Constellation Brands acquired BRL Hardy Limited.[55] Then in 2011, CHAMP bought Constellation Wines' UK and Australian divisions, and renamed Constellation as Accolade Wines.[56] Accolade Wines was sold to private equity firm, the Carlyle Group, in 2018 in a deal for one billion dollars. The deal would make Accolade the second largest Australian wine company by production and total revenue.

Australian Wine Holdco then acquired Accolade from Carlyle Group in 2024; in July of that year, Accolade announced its merger with Pernod Ricard Winemakers. In 2025, a new company, Vinarchy, was formed from the merger of Accolade and Pernod-Ricard.

Chronology

Year	Event
1830	14 January: Birth of Thomas Hardy, near Honiton, Devon (England).
1838	Early Government land surveys are completed in areas south of Adelaide, including Kangaroo Island, Rapid Bay, the Onkaparinga River and Yankalilla.
1839	First European settlement in McLaren Vale: Charles Thomas Hewett (or Hewitt) and Thomas Cotton take up land in the area.
1840	John McLaren leads the major survey of lands south of Adelaide. Early settlement develops agriculture, especially grain production. 6 June: Slate discovered in Willunga.
1848	George Sara builds a flour mill on section 240 at White's Valley, for the Co-operative Company.
1849	Leonard's Mill is built at Second Valley.
1850	Section 157, Hundred of Willunga, is subdivided by Nicholas Browning to form the village of Gloucester (now part of McLaren Vale). **August 14: Thomas Hardy arrives in South Australia, on the ship *British Empire* and works for John Reynell at his winery and farm.**
1851	Gold is discovered at Ballarat. Many farm workers leave the McLaren Vale district for the Victorian goldfields, Thomas Hardy among them.
1852	**The McLaren Vale Union Flour Mill Company is formed by investors including Charles T. Hewett.** Noarlunga Surveyor, Edward Giles, calls for the first tenders to build the mill.
1853	**Thomas Hardy plants vines and establishes a market garden and orchard at his first property, 'Bankside', situated on the Torrens at Underdale. He commences winemaking there.** Willunga's first jetty is built.
1854	Saturday, 16 September: in an attempt to raise capital, ten shares in the Company are offered for sale to investors. The village of Bellevue (now part of McLaren Vale) is subdivided from Section 135, Willunga, by Richard Bell.
1855	**The McLaren Vale Union Flour Mill Company is dissolved.** **Wednesday 6 December: The mill is offered for sale by tender.** William Ranson Mortlock becomes the new operator of the mill.
1857	**Hardy produces his first vintage at 'Bankside'.**

1860s-1880s Moreton Bay figs, including one large *Ficus macrophylla* specimen, are planted at Hardy's Winery.

1861 **November: Winemaker Dr. Alexander Charles Kelly, together with five of Adelaide's most prominent businessmen, forms a syndicate, Tintara Vineyard Company, to produce wine in McLaren Vale.**

1862 **The trustees of Tintara Vineyard Co. purchase 213 acres (86.3 ha) of land on Sections 681, 682, and 683 in the Hundred of Willunga.**

1866-1876 Province of South Australia loses 150 acres of vines per annum. Smaller producers find it increasingly difficult to make a living making producing small quantities of wine.

1870s Emergence of vine diseases including oidium, a fungal disease. Thomas Hardy notes he is spending £1 per acre in 1878 to treat it.

1872 Wines exported by Thomas Hardy from Pewsey Vale (Barossa) vineyards test with high levels of volatile acid which would have made them vinegary to taste.

1875 Thomas Hardy notes that winegrowing in the Barossa is emerging from 'the primitive style of the past' and that the character of the wines is improving due to experience.

1876 After completing vintage for the year, Dr Kelly retires to Norwood.

September: Tintara vineyard (86 acres), together with 2,700 gallons of wine, is offered for sale.

1877 Death of Dr Kelly.

Thomas Hardy buys the property owned by Tintara Vineyard Company.

1878 **September: the land previously owned by Tintara Vineyard Company is transferred to the name of Thomas Hardy.**

1879 Thomas Hardy expands operations at McLaren Vale. **He leases, and ultimately purchases, the old McLaren Vale Union flour mill, for use as a depot and store.**

1880 Hardy leases a small vineyard at Morphett Vale at vintage time and makes wine there; in 1893 he transfers this to a disused chapel in the district.

1881-1882 **Hardy builds two large bluestone warehouses at Acre 136, Currie Street, Adelaide. This becomes the Company's registered address, serving as cellars and main offices, and is known as 'Tintara House'.**

1882 **John Kelly, son of Dr. A.C. Kelly, takes up management of Hardy's McLaren Vale holding; Hardy manages the Bankside operation.**

1884 Hardy further expands his operations by purchasing 640 ha. of additional land adjacent to the Tintara Blewitt Springs site.

1887 **Hardy forms his business into a limited liability company, with his three sons, James J., Thomas N., and Robert B. Hardy as partners.**

1893 **Hardy builds a large cellar on the Bankside property, at Mile End. This later becomes the head office of Thomas Hardy and Sons Pty Ltd.**

1901 Thomas Hardy & Sons applies to trademark the name 'Tintara.'

1904 Hardy's 'Bankside' winery is destroyed by fire. The Hardy homestead is later demolished.

1907 Fortified wines and spirits represent an important market segment for Hardy's and a major element of production at their McLaren Vale site.

1912 **10 January: Death of Thomas Hardy, aged 82. His son, Robert, takes over the family business.**

1915 20 January: The Adelaide-Willunga railway line opens.

1923 **McLaren Vale is gazetted as a town.**

1927 **The Tintara winery at Blewitt Springs is closed. Hardy's continues to work the vineyards.**

1928 Robert Hardy's cousin, Thomas [Tom] Mayfield Hardy, becomes general manager.

1938 Tom Hardy is killed in the Kyeema aircraft crash. His cousin, Ken Hardy, becomes general manager.

1973 **15 January: Hardy's releases the first wine to carry the 'Eileen Hardy' label.**

1976 **Thomas Hardy and Sons makes its first corporate acquisition, purchasing the London-based Emu Wine Company.**

1982 Thomas Hardy and Sons purchases Chateau Reynella and makes it its company headquarters.

1988 Hardy's employs more than 450 people Australia-wide.

1992 **Thomas Hardy and Sons merges with Berri Renmano Limited to form BRL Hardy Limited.**

2003 **BRL Hardy Ltd. is acquired by Constellation Wines.**

2011 **CHAMP purchases Constellation Wines's UK and Australian divisions. Constellation is renamed Accolade Wines.**

2017 Anna Small and Warren Pickering open Fleurieu Arthouse at Hardy's Winery.

2018 **Accolade Wines is sold to private equity firm, the Carlyle Group.**

2022 Accolade is ranked the second largest Australian wine company by production and total revenue.

2024 **Australian Wine Holdco acquires Accolade from Carlyle Group.**

July: Accolade announces its merger with Pernod Ricard Winemakers.

The inaugural 'CLINK at Tintara' Festival is held in McLaren Vale.

2025 **April: The sale of Pernod Ricard to Australian Wine Holdco is completed.**

A new company, Vinarchy, is formed from the merger of Accolade and Pernod-Ricard.

2026 **The last vintage anticipated to be produced at Hardy's Mclaren Vale Winery is crushed and fermented.**

Bibliography

Books and Book Chapters

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Canberra Times (Canberra)

Evening Journal

Express and Telegraph

Hills Messenger

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SITE RECORD

NAME:	Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex	**PLACE NO.:**	26633

FORMER NAME:	McLaren Vale Union Flour Mill; Mortlock Mill	
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Nineteenth and early-twentieth century winery complex	
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1852-1854 (mill building and central core of the cellars and distillery building) 1896-1897 (bond store) 1870s-1930s (other winery buildings and structures included in this assessment; constructed in stages)	
REGISTER STATUS:	Provisional Entry	
LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS:	City of Onkaparinga, authorised 11 January 1996	
CURRENT USE:	Winery and cellars, 1878 – 2026	
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Flour mill, 1854 – c.1875	
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	City of Onkaparinga	
LOCATION:	**Street Address:**	202-206 Main Road, McLaren Vale 5171
LAND DESCRIPTION:	**Title and Plan References:**	CT 5335/766, Plan Parcel F36507AL57
	Hundred:	Willunga

PHOTOS

NAME: Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex **PLACE NO.:** 26633

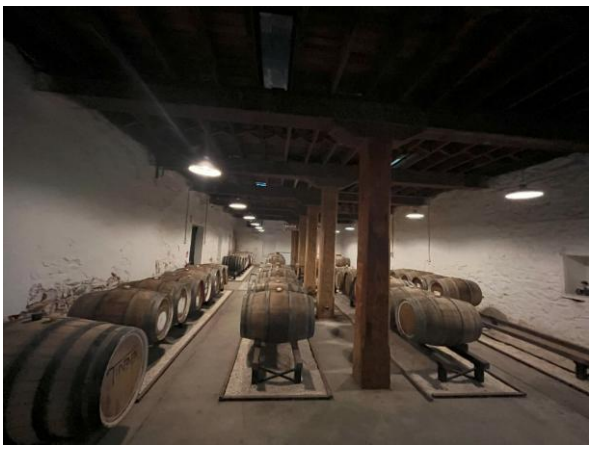
All images unless otherwise stated are DEW, 2026

Cellars and distillery building



Exterior view (entrance court) showing cellars and distillery building (part of nineteenth-century mill buildings). Entrance podium and steps, and brick pediment to centre of roof, are not original fabric.

Source: Michael Coghlan (CC-BY-NC-2.0, via flickr.com, 2019)



Interior view, Cellars and distillery building, Cellar No. 1 (lower floor).



Interior view, Cellars and distillery building (upper floor), showing hand-hewn hardwood beams.

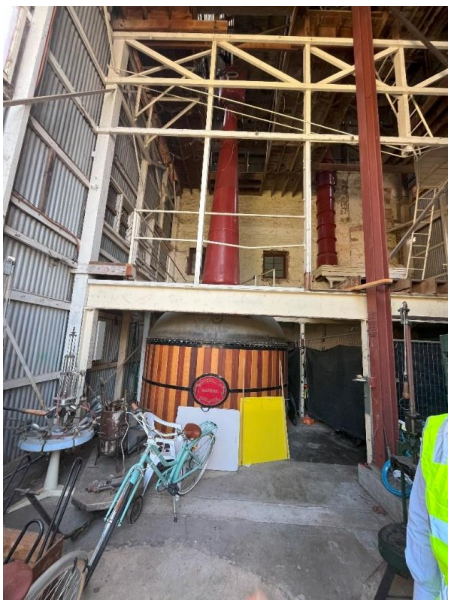


Rear entrance to Cellars and distillery building, showing Willunga slate flooring and brick threshold.

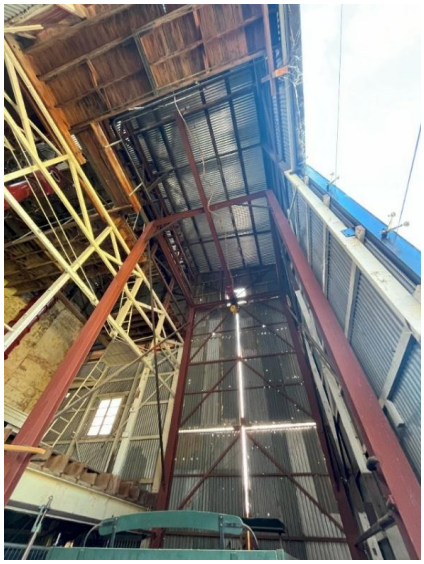
NAME:	Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex	PLACE NO.:	26633



Exterior view, Cellars and distillery building. Showing bluestone lean-to building adjoining large industrial buildings clad in corrugated metal, c.1930s.



Interior view of Cellars and distillery building; view of distilling equipment, fabricated by Whitehill Ltd (Adelaide), c.1930s.



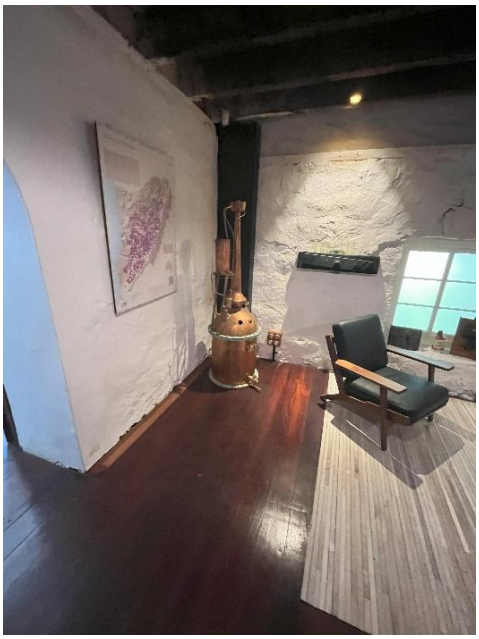
Interior view of Cellars and distillery building, showing steel framing and corrugated iron cladding.



Exterior view of Mill building (shown at left) and Cellars and distillery building.

Concrete slab, deck with steel framing, and glazed safety barrier not significant fabric.

NAME: Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex **PLACE NO.:** 26633



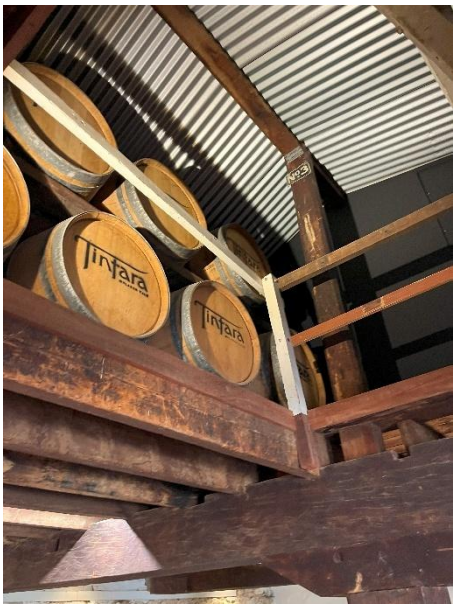
Cellars and distillery building (upper floor), showing old pot still.



Cellars and distillery building (upper floor), showing autographs of previous winemakers on old beam.



Cellars and distillery building (upper floor), showing old trapdoors.

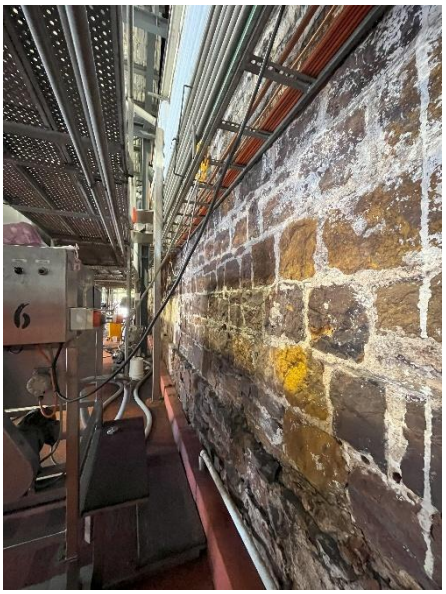


Cellars and distillery building (upper floor), showing wine casks stamped 'Tintara'.

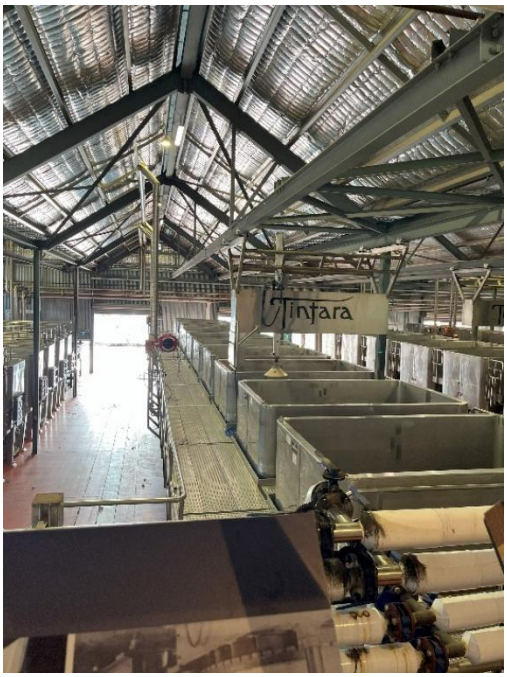
NAME: Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex **PLACE NO.:** 26633



Cellars and distillery building; showing masonry wall.



Cellars and distillery building; showing lower section of wall, with bluestone masonry.



Cellars and distillery building, view of modern winery extension to rear. Remnant bluestone wall to west (not shown) is significant fabric.



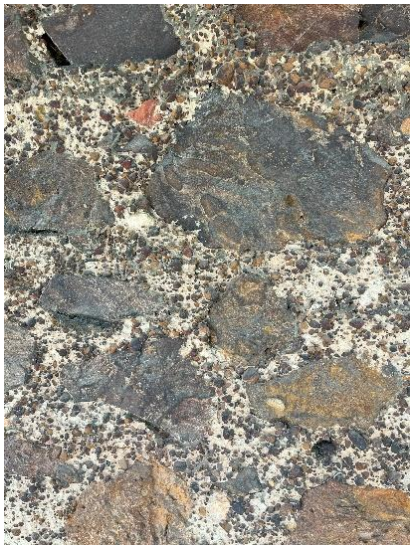
Wall-mounted brass valve to cellars and distillery building, likely once belonging to the cooling system.

NAME:	Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex	PLACE NO.:	26633

Bond Store



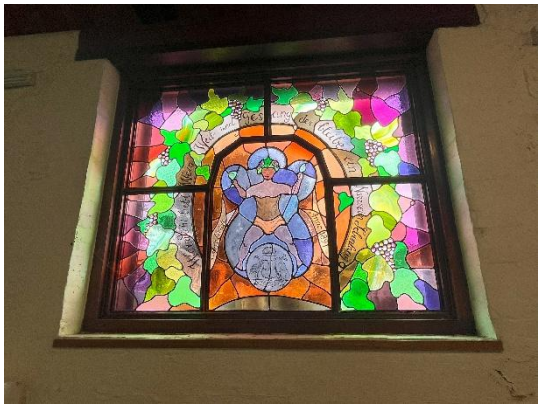
Exterior view of Bond Store building (west side) The brick lean-to and entryway is of later construction.



Close-up view of Bond Store mortar, containing rubble, likely obtained from nearby Pedlar Creek.



Interior view of Bond Store, showing original slate floor. The steel beams and roof lining of timber boards (not significant fabric) are of later construction.



View of twentieth-century stained glass window, representing Bacchus, the Roman god of wine, by Eileen Hardy.

NAME:	Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex	PLACE NO.:	26633

Mill building



Mill building, exterior view.

The bluestone wall extending to the left and right of the entrance door is likely reconstructed using remnant stone from the demolished 'wing' that once existed to the south of the extant mill building.



Mill building, exterior view of lower level (eastern elevation).

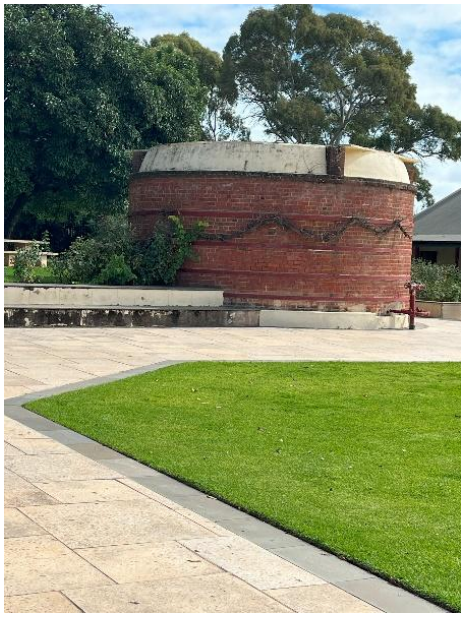
The glazed window opening and sliding access door are later alterations to the fabric. The chimney was likely constructed and/or reconstructed in the 1930s.



View of old wall (remnant fabric of former 'wing' to south of mill building, now demolished). Late twentieth-century (c.1960s) grapevine plantings (not significant fabric).

NAME:	Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex	PLACE NO.:	26633

Water tank and basket press



Circular water tank of brick, with steel reinforcing bands. Note original domed roof has been lost/altered and the tank is now roofed by a sheet of corrugated metal.



Basket press on iron trolley, adjacent to mill building. One of several old basket presses on site; at least one dates to 1918, manufactured by the firm of W. Chas. Whitehill.

NAME:	Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex	PLACE NO.:	26633

Bluestone cottage (now tasting room)



Exterior view of bluestone cottage. Showing rear portico with brick entrance steps (twentieth-century construction; not significant fabric).



Exterior view of bluestone cottage. The lean-to is later construction; not significant fabric. The slate paving to verandah and forecourt may have been re-laid using old materials.



Interior view, bluestone cottage. Showing modern boxed-in ceiling beam.

Google Maps, 2026



Interior view, bluestone cottage. Showing 1920s/30s panelled interior door and partial slate flooring (may have been re-laid, using old materials).

Google Maps, 2024

NAME:	Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex	PLACE NO.:	26633

Bluestone cottage (now administration building)



Exterior view of bluestone cottage (entrance), now administration building.

Bluestone wall cladding is a later 20th century addition (not significant fabric).

Denisbin (CC-BY-2.0, via flickr.com), 2014



Rear of bluestone cottage, now administration building.



Interior view of bluestone cottage, showing slate flooring.



Interior view of bluestone cottage, showing angled window reveals.

NAME:	Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex	PLACE NO.:	26633

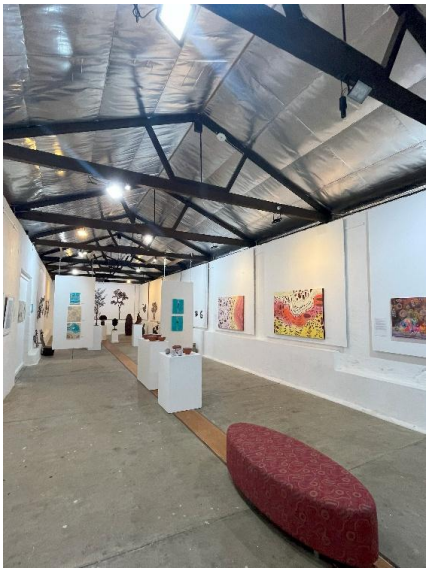
Warehouse ('Fleurieu Arthouse' building)



Warehouse, exterior view, showing masonry construction and gable roof to the original part of building.



Warehouse, interior view, showing steel beams to gable (c.1930s extension) and three of the large wine vats.



Warehouse, interior view; this is the oldest part of the building. Steel beams, insulation, and flooring are not significant fabric.



Warehouse, interior view (c.1930s extension); looking south. Two basket presses are shown.

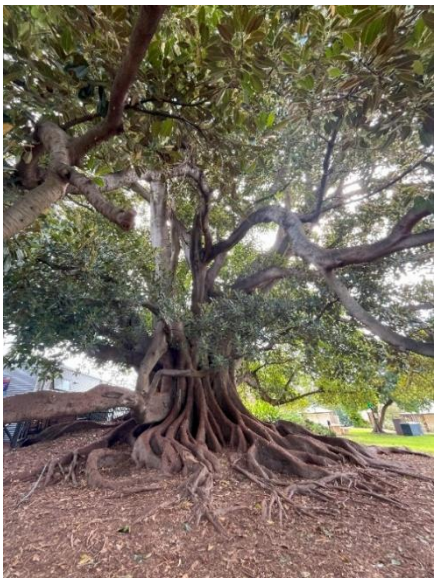
NAME:	Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex	PLACE NO.:	26633



Warehouse, exterior view, showing original part of the building (rendered masonry) and subsequent addition (brick, c.1930s, not significant fabric).

NAME:	Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex	PLACE NO.:	26633

Moreton Bay fig trees and Norfolk Island pine trees



Large-leaved Moreton Bay fig tree (*Ficus macrophylla*), behind the McLaren Vale Hotel.



Small-leaved Moreton Bay fig tree (*Ficus platypoda*), next to Fleurieu Arthouse.



Moreton Bay fig tree (species not confirmed).



Norfolk Island pine trees (*Araucaria heterophylla*).

SITE PLAN

NAME: Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex **PLACE NO.:** 26633



Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex, 202-206 Main Road, McLaren Vale SA 5171, CT 5335/766, F36507 A57 Hundred of Willunga

N ↑

LEGEND

Parcel boundaries

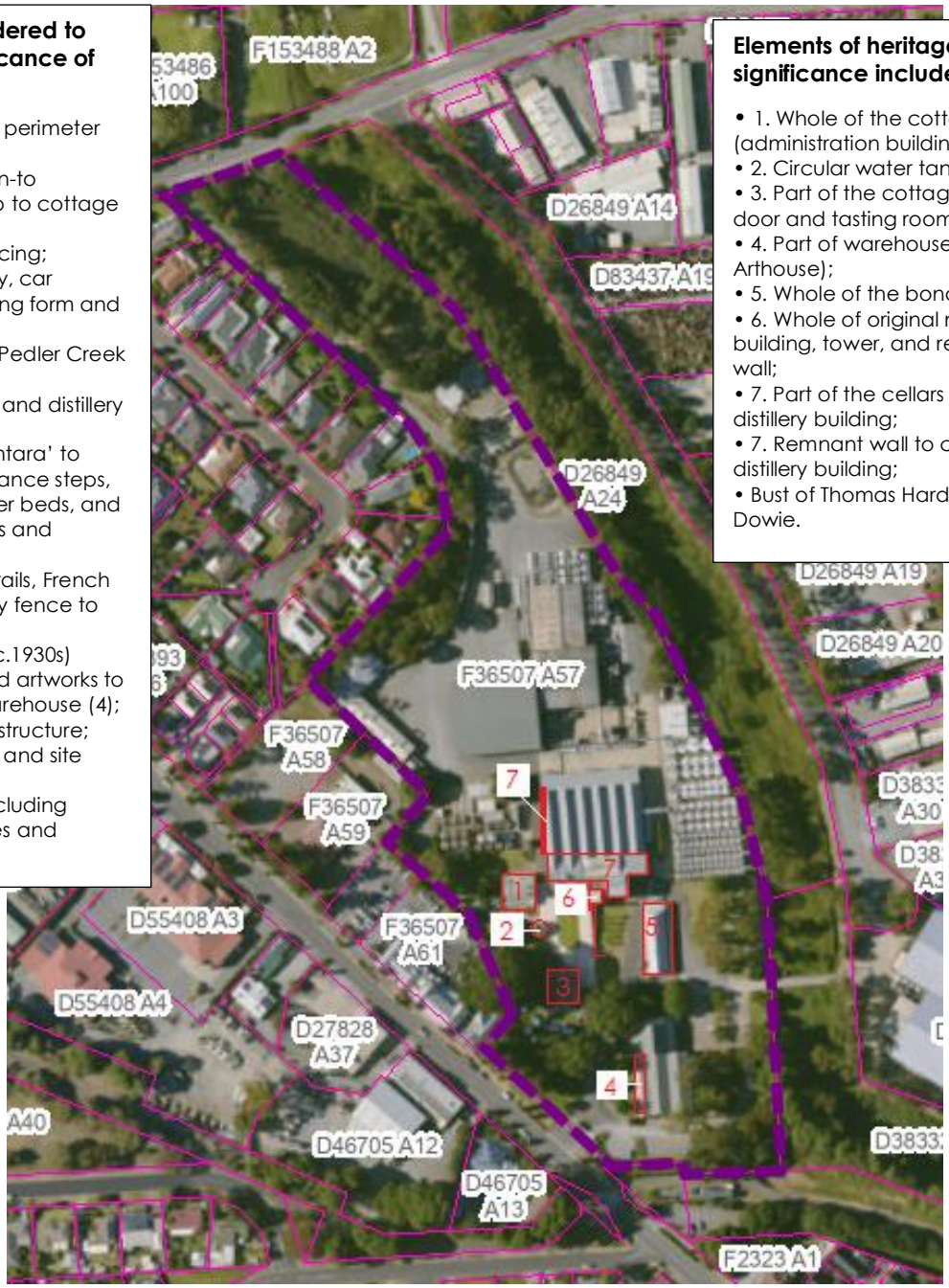
Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

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

SITE PLAN (Detail)

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include:

- Entrance gates and perimeter fence;
- Privacy fencing, lean-to extension, and portico to cottage (3);
- Other perimeter fencing;
- Bituminised driveway, car access, and car parking form and layout;
- Road approaching Pedler Creek road bridge;
- Courtyard to cellars and distillery building (7);
- Lettering 'Hardy's Tintara' to facade, podium, entrance steps, handrails, built-in flower beds, and access ramp to cellars and distillery building (7);
- Decking and safety rails, French doors, and glass safety fence to mill building (6);
- Twentieth-century (c.1930s) additions, signage and artworks to western façade of warehouse (4);
- Modern winery infrastructure;
- Wayfinding signage and site lighting;
- Site landscaping, including native and exotic trees and grapevines.



Elements of heritage significance include:

- 1. Whole of the cottage (administration building);
- 2. Circular water tank;
- 3. Part of the cottage (cellar door and tasting room);
- 4. Part of warehouse (Fleurieu Arthouse);
- 5. Whole of the bond store;
- 6. Whole of original mill building, tower, and remnant wall;
- 7. Part of the cellars and distillery building;
- 7. Remnant wall to cellars and distillery building;
- Bust of Thomas Hardy by John Dowie.

Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex (202-206 Main Road, McLaren Vale SA 5171, CT 5335/766, F36507 A57 Hundred of Willunga)

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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.

DEW ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Subject Index

Group	Category
Manufacturing and processing	Flour Mill
Manufacturing and processing	Winery
Utilities	Water Tank

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

[1] Elizabeth Davis (1988), *Flour Milling in South Australia A History*, (Adelaide: Millers Produce Co. of South Australia), pp7-20. Leslie Jones (1979), 'John Ridley's Contributions to Australian Technology and to the early progress of South Australia', PhD thesis abstract University of Melbourne https://minerva-access.unimelb.edu.au/handle/11343/113823 [Accessed 10 January 2018].
[2] Wine Australia, 'Geographical Indications,' webpage, https://www.wineaustralia.com/labelling/register-of-protected-gis-and-other-terms/geographical-indications [Accessed 21 July 2026].
[3] Barbara Santich (1998), *McLaren Vale: Sea and Vines* (Kent Town: Wakefield Press), p.128.
[4] Robert Amery (2016), 'The Kaurna diaspora and its homecoming: Understanding the loss and re-emergence of the Kaurna language of the Adelaide Plains, South Australia', in: Peter K. Austin, Harold Koch and Jane Simpson (eds), *Language, land and song: Studies in honour of Luise Hercus* (London: EL Publishing), pp.505-522; pp.505-506; Timothy Owen and Donald Pate (2014), 'A Kaurna burial, Salisbury, South Australia: Further evidence for complex late Holocene Aboriginal social systems in the Adelaide region,' *Australian Archaeology*, 79:1, pp.45-53, https://doi.org/10.1080/03122417.2014.11682018, p.46; Phil Czerwinski (2002), 'Archaeology along the Onkaparinga River, South Australia,' *South Australian Geographical Journal*, 101, pp.31-42; p.40.
[5] Barbara Santich (1998), *McLaren Vale: Sea and Vines* (Adelaide: Wakefield Press), pp.8-15; Gavin D. Malone (n.d.), 'Cultural History,' Lot50-Kanyanyapilla, McLaren Vale, webpage, https://lot50kanyanyapilla.com/cultural-history/, accessed 1/06/26; Philip A. Clarke (1991), 'Adelaide as an Aboriginal Landscape,' *Aboriginal History*, 15, pp.54-72; p.59.
[6] Christine Lockwood, 'Early Encounters on the Adelaide Plains and Encounter Bay' in Peggy Brock and Tom Gara eds. *Colonialism and its Aftermath A History of Aboriginal South Australia*, (Kent Town: Wakefield Press, 2017), pp.66-67.
[7] Lockwood, 'Early Encounters on the Adelaide Plains and Encounter Bay', 2017. p.81 Tom Gara 'The Aboriginal Presence in Adelaide, 1860s-1960s: From exclusion to assimilation', in Peggy Brock and Tom Gara (eds), *Colonialism and its Aftermath*, Wakefield Press, Adelaide, 2017. pp.95-97
[8] 'History,' District Council of Yankalilla, webpage, accessed 1/06/26.
[9] Barbara Santich discusses competing claims for the origin of McLaren Vale's name in her *McLaren Vale: Sea and Vines* (2018), pp.85-86; J. McLaren (surveyor). *Country south of Adelaide from O'Halloran Hill to Mt. Terrible including District C and portions of Districts B and D* (1840). Cadastral map. (John Arrowsmith: London) SLSA, BRG 42/120/28; Biodiversity McLaren Vale (n.d.), 'John Wingate McLaren: South Australian Colonial Surveyor & Deputy Surveyor-General', accessed 1/06/26, n.p. [p.1 of PDF document].

[10] 'Hewett, Thomas Charles' (2023-2026), National Trust (South Australia), Willunga Branch, website, https://willungantsa.au/people/hewett-charles-thomas/, accessed 1/06/26; Barbara Santich (1998), *McLaren Vale: Sea and Vines* (Adelaide: Wakefield Press), pp.36-37.
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[13] SA History Hub, 'Viticulture,' website, https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/subjects/viticulture/, accessed 28 July 2026.
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[15] 'Australian Wines in Europe,' *Adelaide Observer*, Sat. 14 Dec. 1872, p.9; 'Vigneron's Club – Dr Kelly on His Recent Visit to Europe,' *South Australian Chronicle and Weekly Mail*, Sat. 18 May 1872, p.9.
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[17] Sally O'Neill (1972), 'Thomas Hardy (1830-1912),' *Australian Dictionary of Biography,* https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hardy-thomas-3716/text5767, accessed 1/06/26.
[18] Sally O'Neill (1972), 'Thomas Hardy (1830-1912),' https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hardy-thomas-3716/text5767, accessed 1/06/26.
[19] Sally O'Neill (1972), 'Thomas Hardy (1830-1912),' https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hardy-thomas-3716/text5767, accessed 1/06/26.
[20] Sally O'Neill (1972), 'Thomas Hardy (1830-1912),' https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hardy-thomas-3716/text5767, accessed 1/06/26.
[21] Sally O'Neill (1972), 'Thomas Hardy (1830-1912),' https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hardy-thomas-3716/text5767, accessed 1/06/26.
[22] Barbara Santich (1998), *McLaren Vale: Sea and Vines* (Adelaide: Wakefield), p.130.
[23] NAA, Application for Trade Mark titled Tintara in respect of wines and spirits - by Thomas Hardy and Sons Limited, NAA: A11731, 7189, 1901.
[24] 'The Vintage. The Southern Vineyards. No. II. Messrs T. Hardy and Sons,' *Chronicle* (Adelaide), Sat. 3 April 1897, p.43.
[25] 'Bankside Vineyard,' *Adelaide Observer*, Sat. 25 May 1878, p.9.

[26] 'Among the Vineyards,' *Chronicle*, Sat. 25 May 1907, p.9; 'Agriculture in South Australia,' *Leader* (Melbourne), Sat. 28 Aug. 1882, p.11.
[27] 'Death of Widely Known Winemaker,' *Advertiser* (S.A.), Thurs. 12 June 1947, p.10.
[28] 'The Vintage. The Southern Vineyards. No. II. Messrs T. Hardy and Sons,' 1897, p.43.
[29] 'The Vineyard,' *South Australian Chronicle*, Sat. 18 May 1895, p.13.
[30] 'Agriculture in South Australia,' *Leader* (Melbourne), Sat. 28 Aug. 1886, p.11.
[31] 'Agriculture in South Australia,' 1886, p.11.
[32] 'The Vineyard,' *The Chronicle*, Sat. 3 April 1897, p.43; John G. Kelly, 'Orchard and Vineyard. Cooling the Fermenting Must', *Adelaide Observer*, Sat. 9 Feb. 1901, p.4; 'The Vintage,' *Adelaide Observer*, Sat. 15 April 1899, p.4.
[33] 'The Vineyard,' *South Australian Chronicle*, Sat. 18 May 1895, p.13.
[34] 'The Vineyard.' 1895, p.13.
[35] 'The Vineyard,' 1895, p.13.
[36] 'The Vineyard,' 1895, p.13.
[37] Sally O'Neill, 'Thomas Hardy (1830-1912),' Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University (1972), https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hardy-thomas-3716/text5767, accessed 12/06/26.
[38] 'Sir Edward Braddon on Australasia,' *The Age* (Melbourne), Sat. 18 June 1892, p.4.
[39] 'More Cellars,' *South Australian Chronicle*, Sat. 29 April 1893, p.14.

[40] Sally O'Neill, 'Thomas Hardy (1830-1912),' Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University (1972), https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hardy-thomas-3716/text5767, accessed 12/06/26.
[41] Interview with Ivan Limb, Rob Linn (interviewer), Australian Wine Oral History Project, 26 March 2003, transcript, OH 692/89, J.D. Somerville Oral History Collection, State Library of South Australia, pp.8-9.
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[43] 'Enterprise at Waikerie,' 1915, p.11; 'Waikerie,' *Murray Pioneer and Australian River Record*, Thurs. 25 Feb. 1915, p.8.
[44] 'Enterprise at Waikerie,' 1915, p.11.
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