South Australian
HERITAGE COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

Entry in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with s14(1)(a) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

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

ADDRESS: Kaurna Country
202-206 Main Road
McLaren Vale SA 5171
CT 5335/766 F36507 AL57, Hundred of Willunga

Draft for Consultation

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Heritage significance in accordance with s 17(2) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

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.

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Relevant criteria in accordance with s 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

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

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 operated under sole family ownership until 1992 having an enduring and special association with Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex for over a century.

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SITE DETAILS

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

202-206 Main Road, McLaren Vale

FORMER NAME:	McLaren Vale Union Flour Mill; Mortlock Mill	
KNOWN AS NAME:	Hardy's Tintara Winery	
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Nineteenth and early-twentieth century winery complex	
HISTORIC THEME/S	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)	
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 Summary of State Heritage Place; constructed in stages	
REGISTER STATUS:	Nominated: 21 January 2026 Date of Provisional Entry: TBA	
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 Reference:**	CT 5335/766, F36507 AL57
	Hundred:	Willunga

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Site Plan

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

202-206 Main Road, McLaren Vale

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

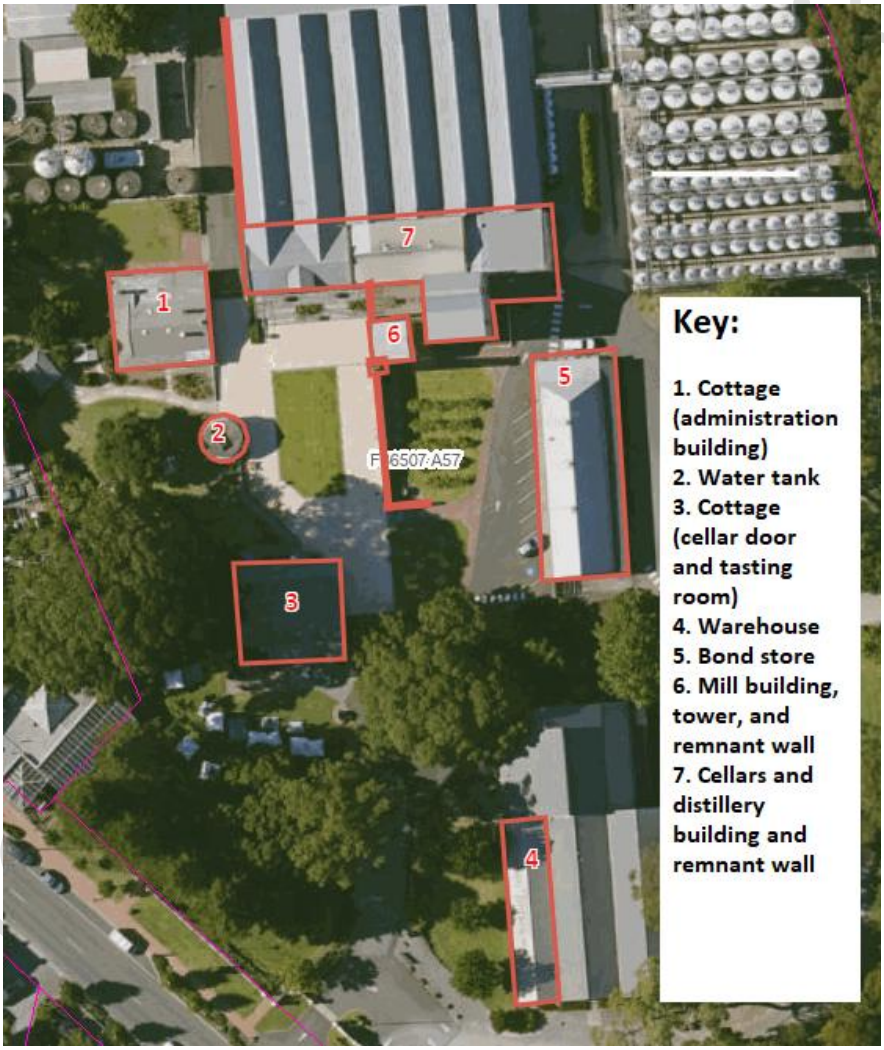
Parcel boundaries

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.

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,

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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,

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- 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,

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- 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;
- 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 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;

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- 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.

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History of the Place

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.[1] 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.[2]

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.[3] 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.'[4]

Government land surveys were completed in areas south of Adelaide by 1838, and released for sale in 1840.[5] Debate still continues as to whether the Vale is named for surveyor John McLaren or resident manager of the South Australian Company David McLaren.[6] Wheat was a primary crop of early settlers and was led by pioneering farmers including Charles Thomas Hewett and William Colton.[7] Many mills were erected to make flour including at White's Valley (1848), Second Valley (1849), Strathalbyn (1849), McLaren Vale (1852) and Normanville (1856).[8] 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.[9] 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.[10] 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.

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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).[11] The name 'Tintara' became especially associated with claret or 'Burgundy-style' wine, meaning 'pure' (not fortified) red table wines of quality.[12] 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.[13]

Thomas Hardy

Thomas Hardy arrived in South Australia on 14 August 1850 from the West Country, England.[14] His first employment was with John Reynell, at Reynella Farm, and later on a cattle station near Normanville.[15] The following year, Hardy left for the Victorian goldfields, driving a herd of cattle which he later sold for meat.[16] 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.[17] 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.[18]



Photographic portrait of Thomas Hardy

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

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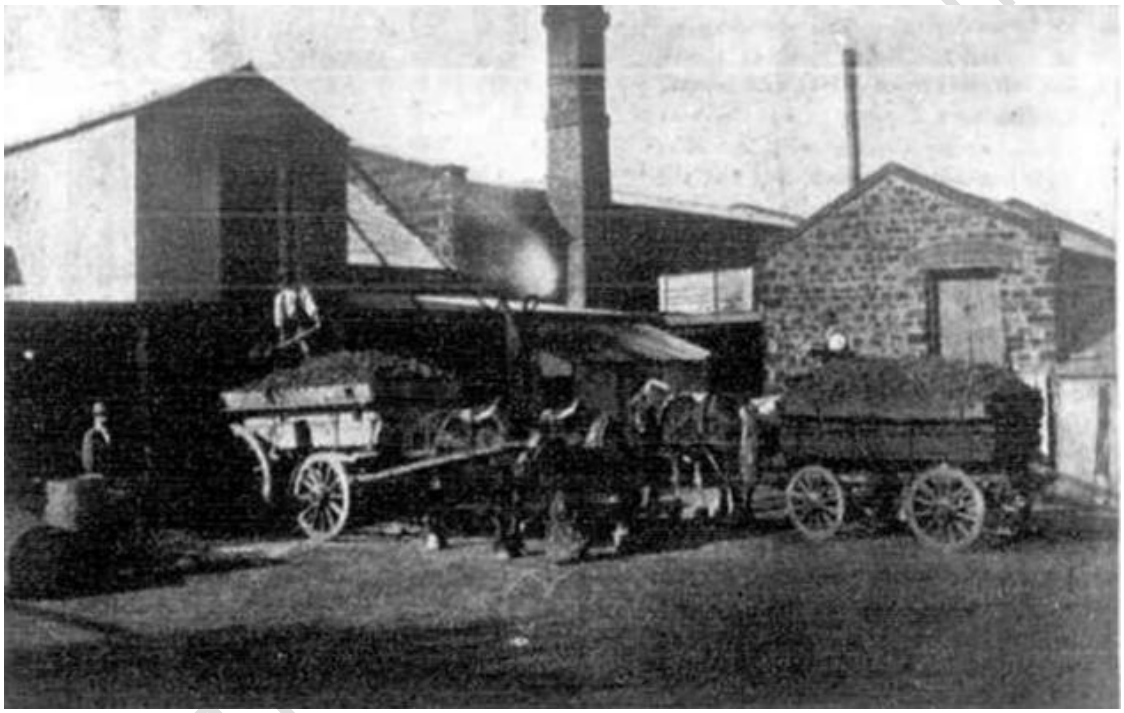
Hardy's success at Bankside enabled him to expand and in 1877-1878 he purchased Tintara Vineyard Company's established winery and vineyard at Blewitt Springs. The purchase included the vineyard, winery, and stock totalling 27,000 gallons of wine. The sale of Kelly's wine paid for the purchase of the property.[19] Hardy kept the well-known and established name, 'Tintara', later trademarking it in 1901.[20]

While Tintara's vines were now in full production, poor local roads and the lack of rail transport inhibited distribution of its wines.[21] By 1878, Thomas Hardy had leased the former McLaren Vale mill site,[22] and subsequently purchased it as a produce store, cellar and depot for Tintara.[23] 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.[24] 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.[25] Additional land was also purchased to the north of the McLaren Vale cellars, and a vineyard established there and known as 'Aldinga.'[26] 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.[27] An excavation was made in the mid-1880s to increase cellarage.[28] In the 1890s, John G. Kelly installed a water-driven cooling system[29] 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.[30]

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'.[31] 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.'[32] At this time, two sets of boilers and engines powered the winery and distillery.[33]

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.[34] 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.[35]

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.[36]

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,[37] 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.[38]

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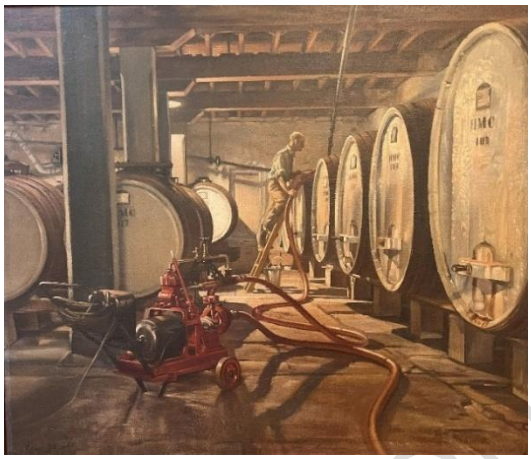
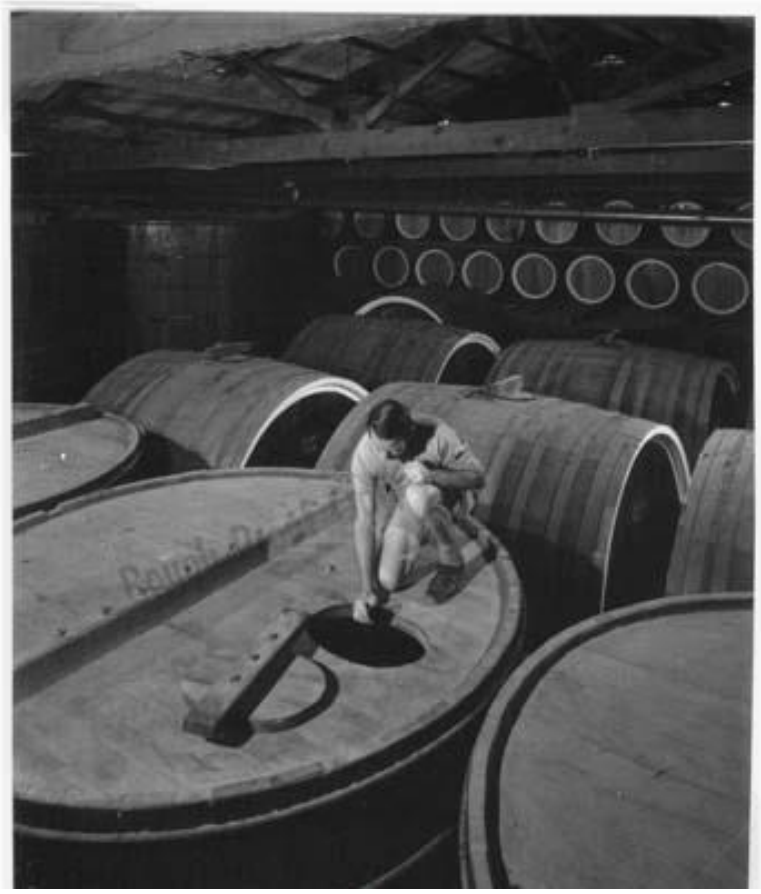
Worker operating basket press, c.1930s. Hardy's Winery heritage display.

Source: DEW, 2026



Clive Steward (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.

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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.[39] 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.[40] 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.[41]

In 1920, Thomas Hardy & Sons sold the distillery to the Waikerie Co-operative Society and erected a winery on the Cyrilton property.[42] Sage continued to manage the site until his death in 1929.[43] 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.[44]

In parallel with Waikerie/Cyrilton, Hardy's built a winery near Tanunda in the Barossa Valley, which was operational for the 1921 vintage.[45] 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.'[46] Known as the Dorrien Winery, the first manager was J.J. Stoward, followed by brothers Bert and Alfred Heinemann.[47] 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. 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.[48]

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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 the McLaren Vale winery was made in 2026.

A new era of expansion began in 1976, when Hardy's made its first corporate acquisition, purchasing the London-based Emu Wine Company.[49] 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.'*[50]

In 1992, Thomas Hardy & Sons merged with Berri Renmano Limited to form BRL Hardy Limited, a move that ended Hardy family's sole ownership.[51] In 2003, Constellation Brands acquired BRL Hardy Limited.[52] Then in 2011, CHAMP bought Constellation Wines' UK and Australian divisions, and renamed Constellation as Accolade Wines.[53]

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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.

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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.**

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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 house 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.

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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.

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PHOTOS

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

202-206 Main Road, McLaren Vale

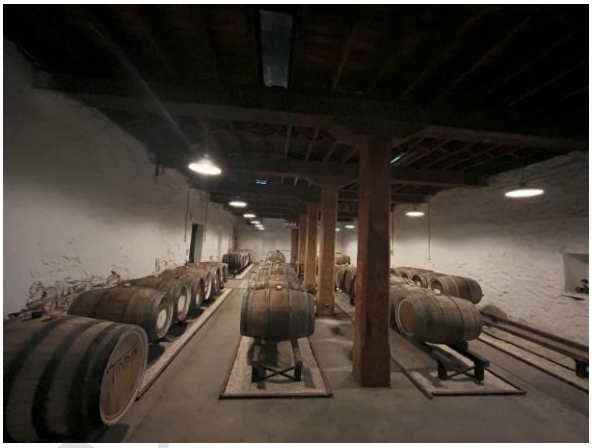
All images unless otherwise stated are DEW, 2026

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.

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

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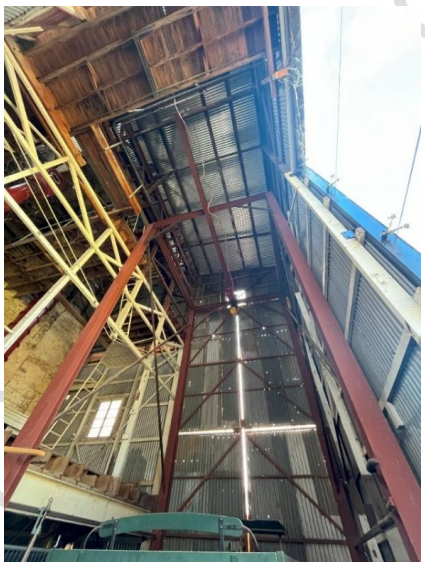
Exterior view, Cellars and distillery building. Showing bluestone lean-to building adjoining large industrial buildings clad in corrugated metal, c.1930s.



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.

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

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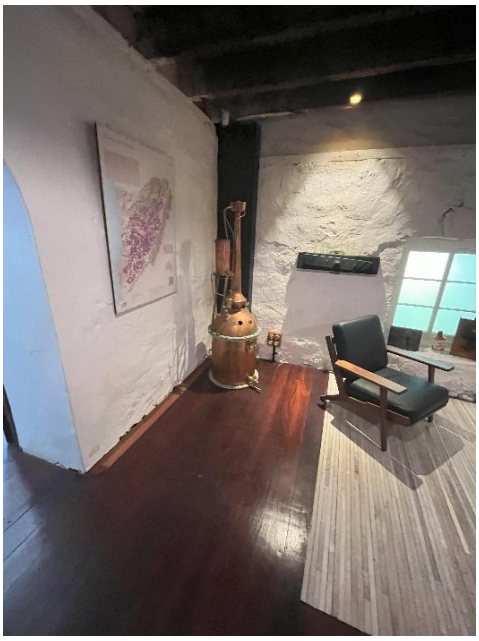


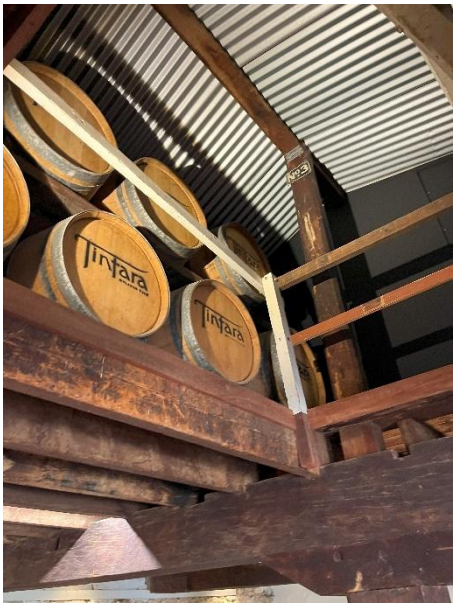
Cellars and distillery building (upper floor), showing old pot still.



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'.

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

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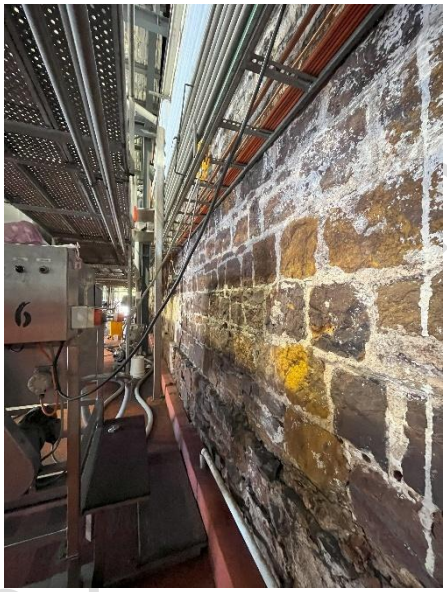
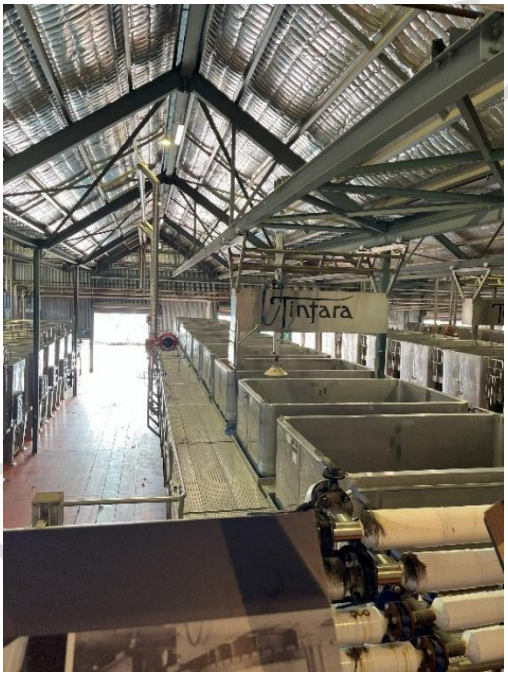
Cellars and distillery building; showing masonry wall.



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.

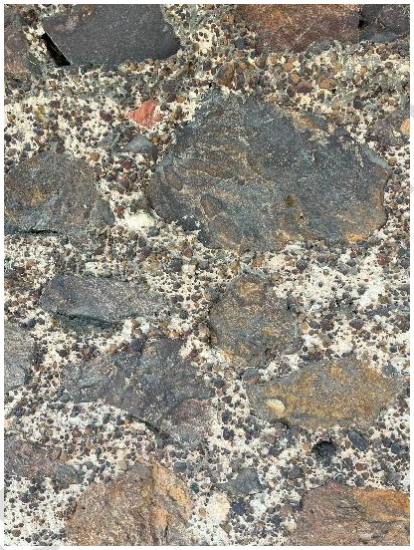
Hardy's McLaren Vale Winery Complex **PLACE NO.: 26633**

202-206 Main Road, McLaren Vale

Bond Store



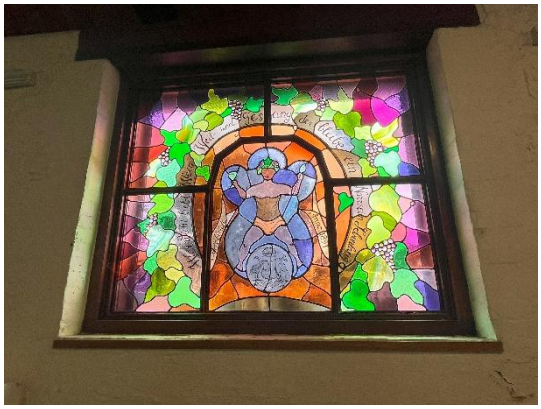
Exterior view of Bond Store building (west side) The brick lean-to and entryway is of later construction.



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.

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

202-206 Main Road, McLaren Vale

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).

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

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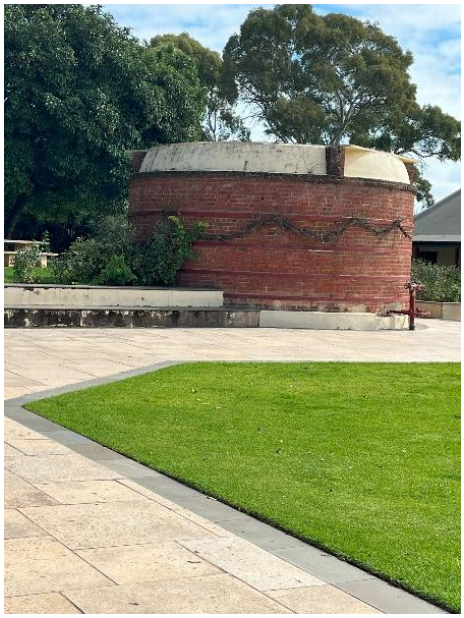
Water tank and basket press



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.

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

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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

Draft for consultation

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

202-206 Main Road, McLaren Vale

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.

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

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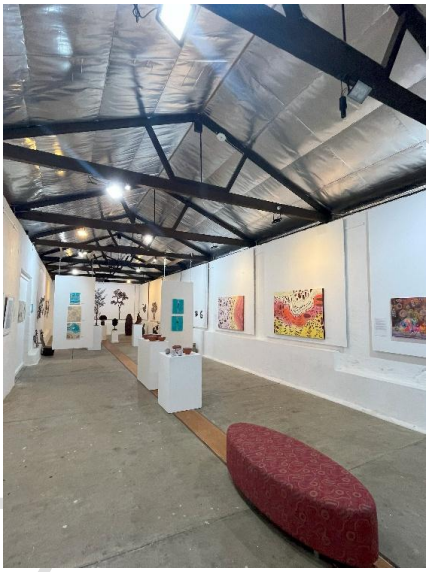
Warehouse ('Fleurieu Arthouse' building)



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.

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

202-206 Main Road, McLaren Vale



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

Draft for consultation

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