HISTORICAL RESEARCH: FERGUSSON'S MILL, NORMANVILLE

The Mill is located on the outskirts of Normanville, described in the South Australian Gazetteer as a postal township and small harbour "surrounded by hills and fresh water creeks, fresh water to be had by sinking in any part of the district, which is both an agricultural and pastoral one". Great promise was seen in the district's silver lead deposits at the time but this never came to fruition. With Adelaide 53 miles away to the north, Normanville benefitted from a daily coach service to the capital from Yankalilla. There were two steam flour mills in operation at the time, as well as a district court house, customs, brewery, brick yard, a Forester's Court, an Oddfellow's Lodge, local court and one hotel.

Originally built by a Mr. Fergusson, the Mill was built around 1850 in what appears to be two stages.

The main building of three storeys was built of bluestone with a later two storey addition of less substantial limestone rubble added to the southern side. Unconfirmed reports indicate there was a second building (which no longer stands) to the north east of the bluestone wing of the Mill. This housed the steam plant as it had a tall chimney stack used by fishermen at sea as a landmark for navigation. An opening at the base of the eastern wall of the bluestone provided for the driving belt of the steam plant. During its heyday, the flour mill processed local grain, with the finished product loaded onto a railway line leading to the jetty. The mill operated until the 1870's after which time it became a wattle bark tannery until the early 1900's or according to local reports, up until the late 1930's. Subsequently, the Mill was used as a store by owners and is presently used as a stables and fodder store by the owners of Comic Court Lodge.

The Mill, being located near the Second Valley Road, presents a significant landmark to nearby travellers. It represents in compact and attractive form, a type of flour mill built during the mid Nineteenth Century and appears to have been the earliest built on the western side of the southern Fleurieu Peninsula to process local grain. Apart from the second mill mentioned in the Gazetteer, which no longer exists as such, Fergusson's Mill is the only substantial mill in the Yankalilla area.

Sources

The South Australian Gazetteer, 1866

- L. Harrison Flour Mills in South Australia, Working Paper 3,
 University of Adelaide, Arch. Dept., 1979
- E.M. Yelland (ed.) <u>Colonists, Copper and Corn in the Colony of South Australia,</u>
 Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1970

<u>Iris Iwanicki</u> REGISTER HISTORIAN

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Australian I Heritage B Act I 1978-80 F		egister of State Heritage Items TEM EVALUATION SHEET uildings and Structures					
		tem CERGUSSON'S MILL, NORMANVILLE COMIC COURT LODGE)					
Age T 1850+		heme		Office 6527-10348			
1837_1852 S		ubject ECONDARY INDUSTRY - PROCESSING OF RIMARY PRODUCTS	Region Fleurieu Peninsula				
		tyle ARLY VICTORIAN/UTILITARIAN	Status N.E.R. N. Tr. (C.L.)		.)		
Qualit	ative Data			Grading			
Compon Histor		Comment	E VG AG FP NA		NA		
particular and market	ontext:	Associated with the grain growing industry, the mill provided a focal point for processing the area's produce and contributed to the importance of Normanville in the Yankalilla area during the latter half of the twentieth century.		*			
2. Pe	erson/Group:	Mr. Fergusson was the original owner. Little is known about him.					*
	ecific ent:	1870's - the mill became Wattle Bark Tannery.				*	
Architecture					=		
	chitect/ ilder:	Not readily available.					*
5. De	esign:	Two buildings joined to form a 'T', a corrugated iron skillion off the taller one. Three storey building - original portic gable roof on simple stone walls, no decoration, timber lintels over opening Two storey building - limestone addition brick quoins at openings, gabled roof	s.		*		
6. Co	nstruction:	with projecting rendered parapet, auste Three storey building - coursed rubble stone walls, timber lintels over opening a corrugated iron roof on timber truss.			*		
· -	l	Two storey building - limestone rubble walls, brick quoins at openings only, corrugated iron roof on timber trusses.					
7. In	terior:	Painted stone walls, concrete floor, upper floors removed, some upper floor structure remains, roof and roof trusse exposed.	s			*	
8. Re	presentation	i: Last of two mills remaining in this immediate area, the last mill on the coastal plain, one of several mills remaining in the State.		*	_		

I.E.S./D3/211081

.8./03/211081	largel and ar	nteriors greatly altered, the building's interpretative role is argely passive as an indication of a past activity. As the building and area, is accessible to the public though, some sort of low keyed active interpretation is possible.						
	work. except	Current Situation: The present owners are sympathetic to the buildi but somewhat frustrated at attempts to procure finance for maintenar work. The building is under no known immediate threat, with the exception of needed maintenance.						
_ 		Ivar Nelsen Register Architect	Iris Iwanicki Register Historian	Date				
		Ivar Nelsen		Date				
	South Austral	Date						

16. Interpretation: With the milling equipment long removed and the

Register of State Heritage Items

(COMIC COURT LODGE)

open setting.
10. Local Character: Set between nearby hills and sand

fretting badly.

would be easily adapted as they have already been.

but not unsympathetic.

Comment

Item FERGUSSON'S MILL, NORMANVILLE

Set adjacent the main road, mature tree lined avenue, numerous minor related buildings adjacent, flat

Size and bulk create dominance,

approach from the south.

adjacent treed avenue, visible from

Internal floors removed, interiors

Three storey building sound but in

Current stables use is not original

external form is more sensitive than the interior spaces for adaptatic External additions should be minimal and at the rear, the enlarged opening on the tall building should be returned to its original state.

need of guttering and minor work.

adapted to horse stalls, chimney

in the three storey portion.

dunes of the coast, open plain betweeh, long open vistas, treed avenue notable.

demolished, walls patched and partially rendered with cement render, skillion added, windows replaced and minor

openings closed off, large new opening

Two storey portion sound but will need structural work soon. Damp, limestone

The large free spaces of the building's interiors

Grading

*

*

The building s

nc c∈

*

VG AG FP NA

ITEM EVALUATION SHEET

Buildings and Structures

South

Act

Australian

Heritage

1978-80

9.

Component

Environment

11. Landmark:

12. Alterations:

13. Condition:

14. Compatability:

Supplementary Information

15. Adaptation:

Integrity

Continuity:



FILM 39 NO 6

FORMER MILL, SECOND VALLEY ROAD, VIEW FROM SOUTH EAST

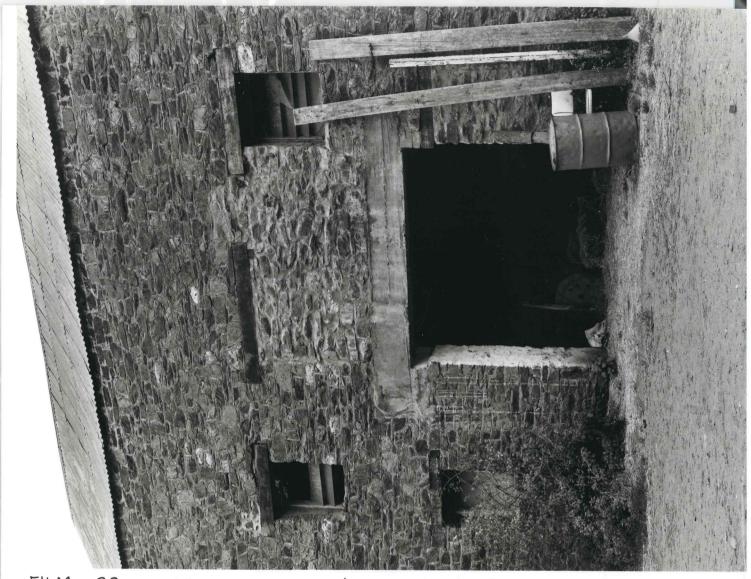
NORMANVILLE 13-2-79



FILM 39 NO 10

VIEW ALONG SECOND VALLEY ROAD FROM SOUTH TO FORMER FERGUSSON'S MILL

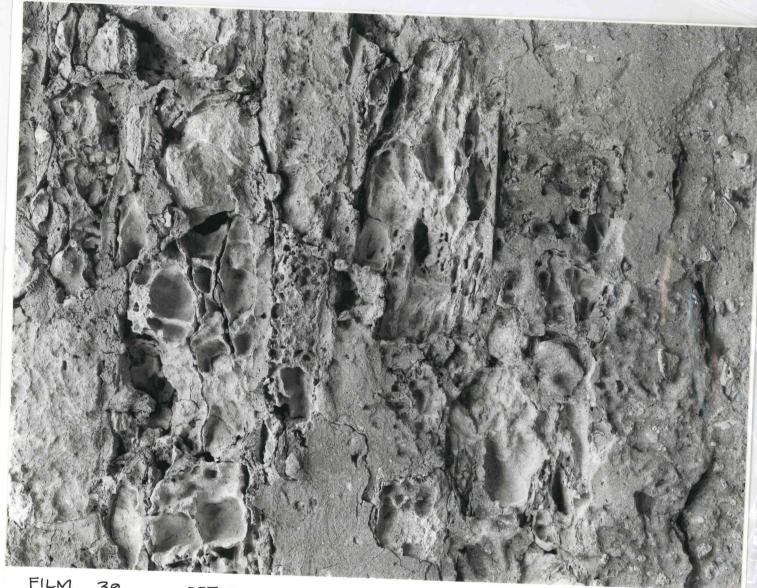
NORMANVILLE 13-2-79



FILM 39 No 5

DETAIL, FERGUSSON'S MILL (FORMER)

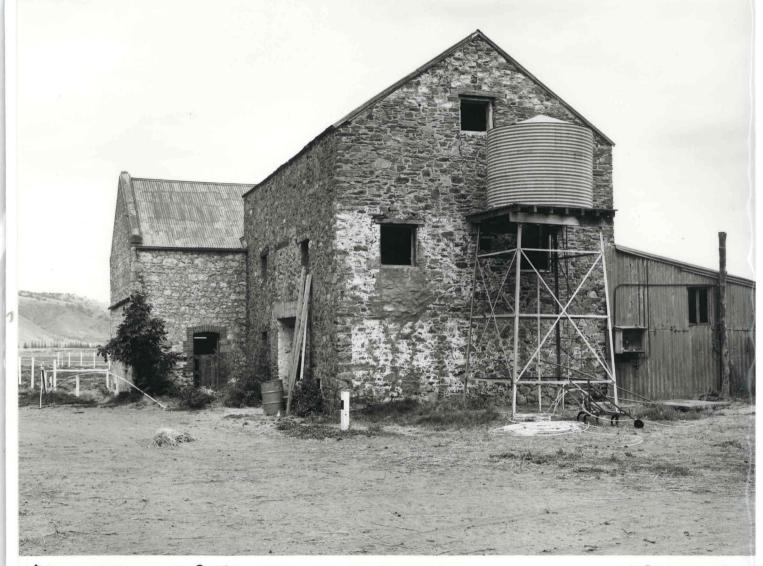
NORMANVILLE



FILM 39 NO 7

DETAIL, FORMER FERGUSSON'S MILL

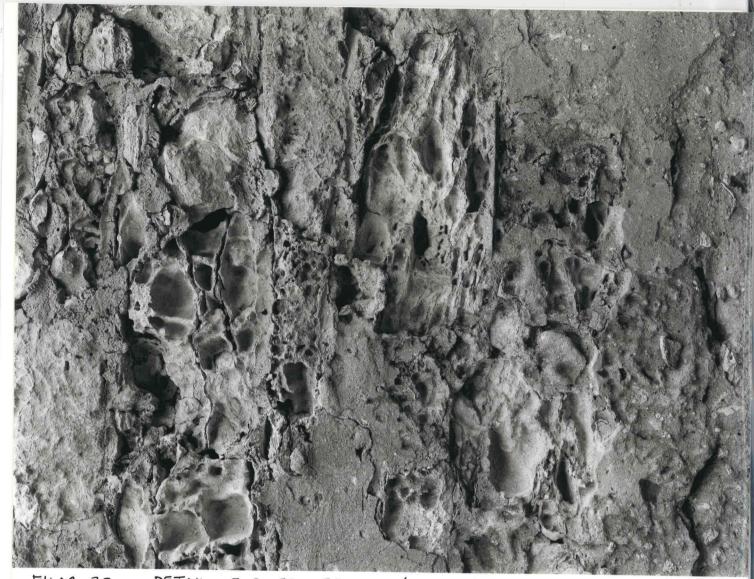
NORMANVILLE



FILM 39 NO 4

FORMER MILL, SECOND VALLEY ROAD

NORMANVILLE 13-2-79



FILM 39 No 7

DETAIL, FORMER FERGUSSON'S MILL 6527 - 10348

NORMANVILLE



FILM No.

HILL - NORMANUILLE 6527 - 10348

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FILM 39 No 5

DETAIL, FERGUSSON'S MILL (FORMER)
6527-10348

NORMANVILLE



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MILL-NORHANVILLE 6527 - 10348

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