

HISTORICAL RESEARCH: FERGUSON'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.) Colonists, Copper and Corn in the Colony of South Australia,
Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1970

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II:BAH

2.4.82

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures Item FERGUSSON'S MILL, NORMANVILLE (COMIC COURT LODGE)						
Component <u>Environment</u>		Grading E VG AG FP NA					
9. Continuity: 10. Local Character: 11. Landmark:	Comment Set adjacent the main road, mature tree lined avenue, numerous minor related buildings adjacent, flat open setting. Set between nearby hills and sand dunes of the coast, open plain between, long open vistas, treed avenue notable. Size and bulk create dominance, adjacent treed avenue, visible from approach from the south.	* * *					
<u>Integrity</u>							
12. Alterations: 13. Condition:	Internal floors removed, interiors adapted to horse stalls, chimney demolished, walls patched and partially rendered with cement render, skillion added, windows replaced and minor openings closed off, large new opening in the three storey portion. Three storey building sound but in need of guttering and minor work. Two storey portion sound but will need structural work soon. Damp, limestone fretting badly.	* *					
14. Compatability:	Current stables use is not original but not unsympathetic.	*					
<u>Supplementary Information</u>							
15. Adaptation: The large free spaces of the building's interiors would be easily adapted as they have already been. The building's external form is more sensitive than the interior spaces for adaptation. External additions should be minimal and at the rear, the enlarged opening on the tall building should be returned to its original state. 16. Interpretation: With the milling equipment long removed and the interiors greatly altered, the building's interpretative role is largely 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. 17. Current Situation: The present owners are sympathetic to the building but somewhat frustrated at attempts to procure finance for maintenance work. The building is under no known immediate threat, with the exception of needed maintenance.							
Evaluated By	Ivar Nelsen Register Architect	Iris Iwanicki Register Historian	Date				
Reviewed By	Ivar Nelsen	Date					
South Australian Heritage Committee Categorization		Date					



FILM 39
NO 6

FORMER MILL, SECOND VALLEY ROAD,
VIEW FROM SOUTH EAST

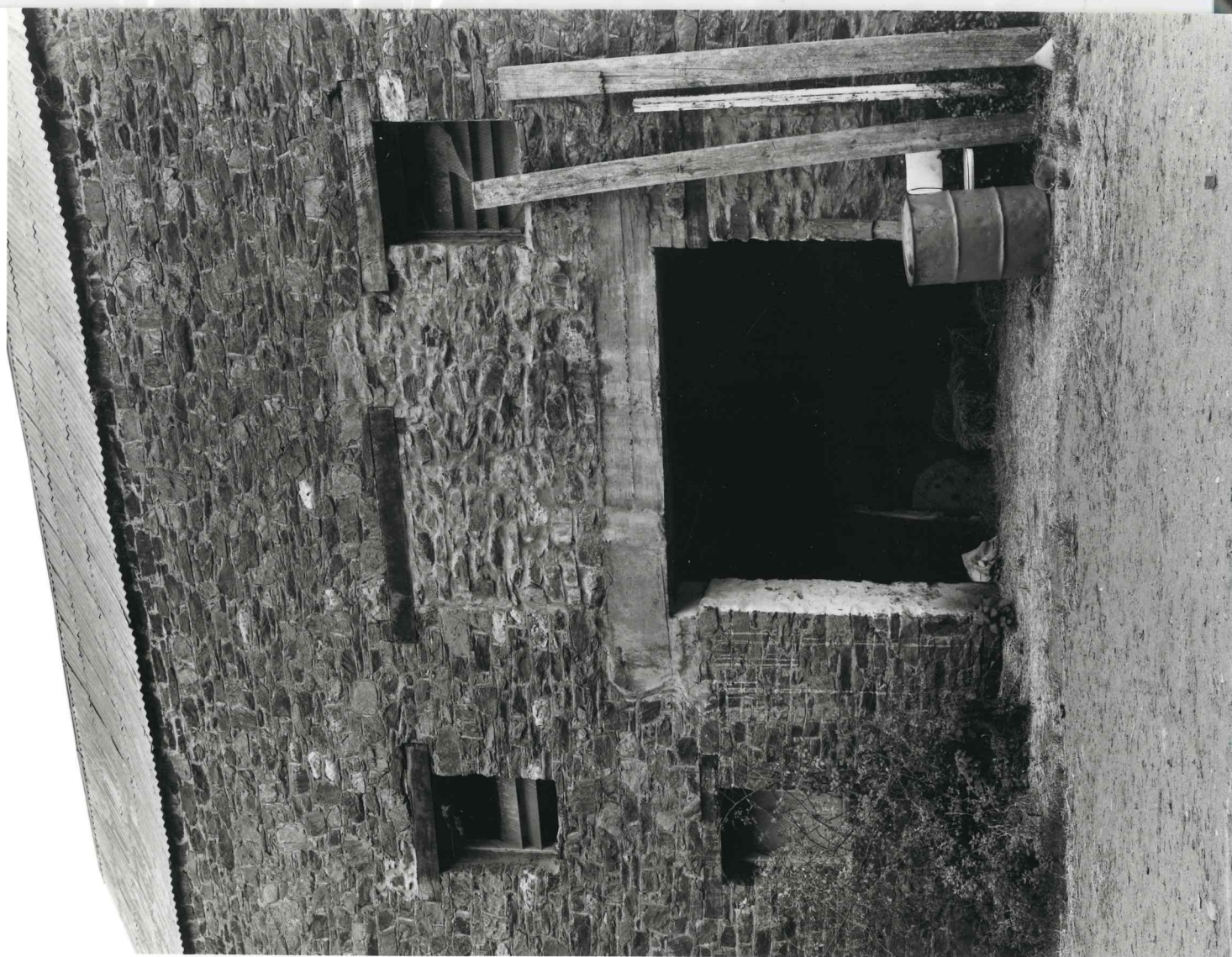
NORMANVILLE
13-2-79



FILM 39
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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
13-2-79



FILM 39
NO 7

DETAIL, FORMER FERGUSSON'S MILL

NORMANVILLE
13-2-79



FILM 39
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FORMER MILL, SECOND VALLEY ROAD

NORMANVILLE
13-2-79



FILM 39 DETAIL, FORMER FERGUSON'S MILL
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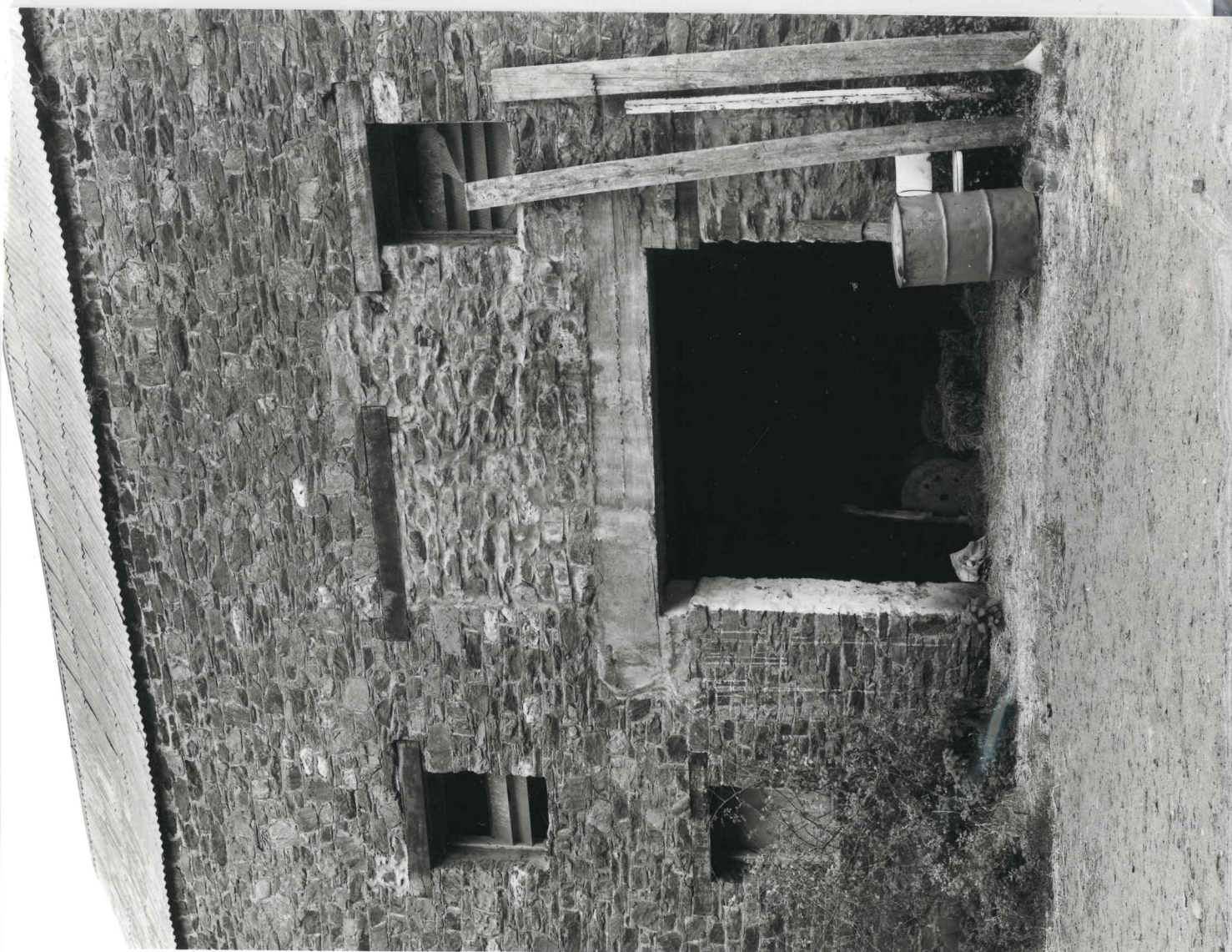
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DETAIL, FERGUSSON'S MILL (FORMER)
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