

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 27/04/24

COLUMBIAN

Location

Beached at Sandridge, Port Phillip Bay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S135

Date lost

26/04/1854

Construction material

Wood

Propulsion

Sail

Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 / 0.00 / 0.00

Built country

United States of America

Date lost

26/04/1854

Departure

Boston

Destination

Melbourne

Cargo

Timber (UID 2)

Weather conditions

S force 6; clear

Cause of loss

Caught fire and suffered extensive damage. Ship was towed to beach at Sandridge and scuttled (UID 9)

Crew comments

Crew had deserted to the goldfields

Statement of significance

<p>The ship is historically significant as example of an early inter-colonial trader, and for its association with the mass immigration to the Victorian goldfields. The archaeological significance is unlikely to be high, as the ship suffered severe fire damage</p>

VHR history

Some of the crew had deserted to the goldfields and were suspected of starting the fire which was discovered during the night by the Captain who sounded the alarm and found the crew gone. The boats of the Electra and the Water Police gave assistance and the ship was towed towards the beach and scuttled under the direction of the Deputy Harbour Master. Although there was little wind, the fire burned so furiously that destruction of the ship was complete.