

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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DART

Location

Queenscliff, Port Phillip Bay, near Swan Bay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S166

Date lost

10 Jul 1887

Official number

73512

Construction material

Wood

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

48.50 Feet / 13.20 Feet / 5.00 Feet

Builder

George Lockwood, Launceston

Year of construction

1876

Built port

Torquay, Tasmania

Built country

Australia

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

10 Jul 1887

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

Westernport

Cargo

250 bags oats, general cargo - valued at 200 pounds -

Owner

James Taylor, of Schnapper Point (Mornington)

Master

William Woodburn

Weather conditions

Strong south easterly wind, heavy swell (UID 152)

Cause of loss

Parted cables and dragged ashore

Number of crew

1

Statement of significance

<p>Historically significant as an example of an early 'sail trader' which were the lifeline of early settlers around Port Phillip Bay, and often became household names (Watson 1981, 17)</p>

VHR history

The ketch, Dart, which regularly called at Melbourne, parted her cable when anchored at Queenscliff on 11 July 1887. Bound from Melbourne to Westernport carrying a cargo of 250 bags of oats, and a general cargo valued at

200, she drifted onshore about 300 yards to the North of the Queenscliff old jetty near the creek leading into Swan Bay. "The Master, Mr William Woodburn, owing to the heavy swell, was letting out more cable when a sea struck her and she parted her anchor. The vessel's head turned in shore, and another anchor was let go, but this did not hold her, and she drifted in shore, striking one of the fishing boats and carrying away the headstays. The Dart was then beached, and heavy seas broke over her. There were only two persons on board at the time, Mr Woodburn and a seaman. They stayed on board as long as it was possibly to do so with safety, and then took to the boat and came on shore, but have lost all their personal effects." (ID 152)