

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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ALEXANDER

Location

West Coast, Apollo Bay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S18

Date lost

03/11/1883

Official number

31718

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Single deck, square stern, clinker built.

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

1

Length/Breadth/Depth

36.30 Feet / 11.30 Feet / 6.40 Feet

Year of construction

1843

Built port

Point Rapid, Tamar River, Tasmania

Built country

Australia

Registration Number

No. 125 of 1883

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

03/11/1883

Departure

Apollo Bay

Destination

Melbourne

Cargo

Potatoes

Owner

David Inverarity master mariner of Melbourne

Weather conditions

Gale

Statement of significance

<p>It is impossible to assess the archaeological significance of the Alexander as the site has not been located. However as it was involved in the development of Apollo Bay trade (agriculture) it has local historical significance.</p>

VHR history

The Alexander was originally a 2 masted schooner. It was converted to a cutter rig in August 1850. It was owned by J. Hill and F. Hitchins 1849-50 and then W. Roberts and W. Hammerton in 1850. It was transferred to the Melbourne Register in 1852. (Parsons, Australian Shipowners and their fleets Vol. 8, Geelong Customs Register of Ships)

 The Alexander was blown ashore at Apollo Bay in an easterly gale and broke up. Its cargo of potatoes was lost. The Colac Herald reported that:
 "The wreck of the cutter Alexander trading between Apollo Bay and Melbourne, points out the field of action open for any colonial Plimsoll. The vessel went aground in Apollo Bay and broke up into chips directly afterwards through being completely unseaworthy, decayed, in fact, throughout. It appears (write the Melbourne Bulletin) the craft was 41 years old, so it might not be amiss to ask if there is any supervision over seagoing crafts of this kind, in the interests of seamen, whose lives are sufficiently jeopardised in the hazards of their everyday life, without being sent to sea in a vessel too rotten to hold together"

(Colac Herald 20/11/1883).
None of the small wooden wrecks blown ashore in Apollo Bay have been located nor reported.