

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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ALEXANDRA

Location

Lady Bay, Warrnambool

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S19

Date lost

30/03/1882

Official number

44880

Construction material

Wood

Hull

1 deck, carvel built, square stern, woman's figure head; felt & yellow metal, one deck, part iron bolts

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

106.30 Feet / 25.60 Feet / 14.10 Feet

Builder

Henry Harvey

Year of construction

1863

Built port

Sussex

Built country

England

Registration Number

34 of 1876

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

30/03/1882

Departure

Warrnambool

Destination

Sydney

Cargo

130 tons of potatoes for Smith bros

Owner

Wright, Ower & Co.

Master

Captain Jones

Weather conditions

Gale storm

Cause of loss

Driven ashore

Statement of significance

<p>The vessel is historically significant for its participation in the inter-colonial trades around Australia during the 19th century.</p>

VHR history

The brig Alexandra called at Warrnambool to load a cargo of potatoes for Sydney. While it was riding out a south westerly gale in Lady Bay, one of the anchor cables parted. More chain was let out on the remaining anchor while the crew prepared the kedge and another anchor stored below. However, the vessel was drifting rapidly towards the beach, and as the kedge was dropped, the Alexandra struck stern-first nearly opposite the leading light. The mate swam ashore with a line and all the crew eventually made it ashore safely. The vessel remained with its bow pointing out to sea. Each wave caused the bow to lift a little, then fall back, taking the weight of the foremast and wrenching the hull. The vessel broke up in subsequent heavy weather.

#VHR: While riding out a gale in Lady Bay, Warrnambool, one of the anchor chains parted on the brig Alexandra. The second anchor dragged and the vessel was driven ashore on the beach. All the crew made it ashore, but the Alexandra became a total wreck.#