

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 19/10/24

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## E. NORRIS

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### Location

Port Phillip Bay, at mouth of Yarra River

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S232

### Date lost

24/02/1858

### Construction material

Wood

### Propulsion

Sail

### Length/Breadth/Depth

187.30 Feet / 36.00 Feet / 22.50 Feet

### Builder

Metcalf and Norris

### Year of construction

1854

### Built port

Damariscotto, Maine

### Built country

United States of America

### Registration Port

New York

**Date lost**

24/02/1858

**Departure**

New York

**Destination**

Melbourne

**Cargo**

6,000 pieces of timber - white and yellow pine, averaging 25 feet in length and 1 1/2 inches in thickness

**Owner**

Benjamin Dale, Metcalf, Eldridge and Franklin

**Master**

Captain William Follanshee

**Cause of loss**

At anchor on 24th February when fire broke out. Although the hatches were battened down, the fire could not be contained so she was towed away from other shipping and finally sank (UID 114). As there was nothing flammable on board, the cause of the fire was never determined

**Passenger comments**

All passengers except 1 was away from ship at time of fire.

**Number of crew**

10

**Crew comments**

Walter J. Chapman, John Driver, Thomas McDonald, Charles Huston, James Briggs, Isaac Faulkes, William Blencross, James Derwenter, William Pratt and James MacCarthy (UID 9) Mr Standish (3rd mate), Mr Elliot, Everett Chapman (steward)

**Statement of significance**

<p>The E. Norris is significant for its association with early international trade into Port Phillip</p>

**VHR history**

Men were working in the hold the day fire broke out. No coals or dangerously inflammable matter on board. Fire discovered about 3 am, hatches battened down and tarpaulins placed over them. Boats from HMCS Victoria came from Williamstown and gave assistance. Tugs Hercules and Lioness later in the morning towed the ship away from other shipping to St Kilda bank. After some difficulties it was scuttled, and heeled over in about 3-3/4

fathoms, with yards and masts standing and sails bent. Loss estimated at about 10,000 pounds. No floating engine available to assist at fire on this occasion. At 4.30 pm, the fire party from the Victoria returned with the entire crew of ten from the E. Norris, arrested at the request of the master, on suspicion of having set fire to the ship. Brought before the Williamstown Police Court, the charge was dismissed - not the slightest evidence against the accused. No indication of how the fire had started. Mr. Isbister of Williamstown contracted to remove the vessel. It was pumped out, towed across the Bay and moored in shallow water near mouth of Yarra River. In 1882 Mr. A. White won the tender for the removal of the E. NORRIS from Hobsons Bay, off White's slip at Williamstown.