

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 27/09/24

E. NORRIS

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.