

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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EMILY

Location

Johanna River mouth, Johanna Beach, Otway National Park

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S234

Date lost

28 Dec 1888

Official number

74969

Construction material

Wood

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

51.60 Feet / 15.00 Feet / 4.90 Feet

Builder

Edward Davis

Year of construction

1878

Built port

Brisbane Water, New South Wales

Built country

Australia

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

28 Dec 1888

Departure

Melbourne (?)

Destination

Joanna (Johanna) Beach

Owner

M. Pidoto

Master

Capt. Forbes

Weather conditions

south-west storm for three days

Cause of loss

Parted anchors and driven ashore

Passenger comments

Alfred Hampshire, his wife and four younger members of his family

Number of crew

1

Crew comments

First mate

Statement of significance

<p>The Emily is archaeologically and historically significant as evidence of pioneer European settlement of the Otway region.</p>

VHR history

The ketch Emily parted from its anchor at Joanna Bay whilst landing members of the Hampshire family. In the rough sea, the vessel drove ashore and became a total wreck. The Hampshire family consisting of Alfred Hampshire (1845-1893) his parents, brothers and sisters, arrived in Australia on the Earl of Charlemont, wrecked at Barwon Heads in 1853. He obtained land at Joanna (Johanna) and chartered the 16 ton ketch Emily to land his possessions, wife and four younger members of his family at the farm. "Captain Forbes and the mate rowed the family ashore in two trips, but on attempting to return to their ship the boat was swamped in rough seas as a storm swept in. The sole remaining seaman on the Emily rode out the storm for three days until the anchor hawser parted forcing him to hoist sail and drive the vessel onto a stretch of sandy beach at the mouth of the Joanna River. Unloading of the cargo could only be done at low tide. Livestock, furniture, tools, personal possessions and all the fittings, doors, windows for a home and six months provisions were eventually landed. The Emily remained stuck fast and soon disintegrated, part of the hull drifting into the mouth of the Joanna where it remains to this day hidden under sand" (Loney, 1989: 27-28).