

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 30/09/24

AMICUS

Location

Bass Strait, off Port Phillip Heads, Point Nepean

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S24

Date lost

01/03/1857

Official number

31761

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Oak and red pine plank; coppered 1844, yellow metalled 1847. Classified A1 1839, lapsed into 2nd description of FirstClass 1850

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

77.00 Feet / 19.10 Feet / 12.10 Feet

Builder

Not known

Year of construction

1839

Built port

St. Helier, Jersey (UID: 2)

Registration Port

Adelaide

Date lost

01/03/1857

Departure

Adelaide

Destination

Melbourne

Cargo

Flour; general cargo (UID 72)

Owner

J.F. Bennett & C.E. Bertheau

Weather conditions

Clear night; Forceful winds (UID 132)

Cause of loss

Struck reef at Corsair Rock, Point Nepean at 9.00 on Sunday night while trying to enter the heads. Ocean swell was "too much for the little schooner and she took on a large amount of water" (UID: 53) Became a total wreck. Broke in two and portion floated out to sea

Passenger comments

Most of the passengers left in a boat and landed at Queenscliffe. (UID 9, 152, 72)

Crew comments

The Captain and three crew remained onboard after the vessel struck and were rescued by the Customs vessel. Most of the crew and passengers left in a boat and landed at Queenscliffe. (UID 9, 152, 72)

Statement of significance

<p>This vessel is significant historically as an early 19th century international coastal trader that was employed in the development of southern Australian colonies.</p>

VHR history

Struck a rock off Point Nepean about 9 pm, became a total wreck when it broke in two the following day. Some of the crew and passengers left in ship's boat and landed at Queenscliff about 1.30 am. The captain and three men left onboard were taken off by the Customs boat. One man had been washed off the wreck and drowned. A portion of the Amicus floated out to sea and was later located by Captain Ferguson, the Harbourmaster, on the steam sloop Victoria . This floating hazard to shipping was towed on to the rocks where it broke up. Vessel valued at about 900 pounds. Run ashore at Indented Head in November 1851 but was later refloated. Varied career included trading to Port Fairy, Portland, Geelong, Hobart, Adelaide, Melbourne, Batavia. Does not appear in Lloyd's register after 1851. (UID 3, 9, 152, 72)

 #Classification: 7 A1#