

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 10/11/24

LADY HARVEY

Location

Off Shortlands Bluff, Port Phillip Bay.

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S411

Date lost

30/04/1854

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Hackmatack, black birch, spruce and pine. Yellow-metalled 1849; some repairs 1845, 1849. Surveyed 1852 - 2nd Description of the First Class (Lloyds).

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Year of construction

1839

Built port

New Brunswick

Built country

Canada

Registration Port

Glasgow

Date lost

30/04/1854

Departure

Glasgow

Destination

Melbourne

Cargo

General cargo, consigned to Brown, Ralston & Co

Owner

R. Hardy

Master

Captain Robertson

Weather conditions

Heavy fog and strong tide.

Cause of loss

Ship took on a pilot at 4.30 pm. rather than enter she was kept on and off the reef all night, and the following morning ran for the Heads. When abreast of Point Lonsdale the tide, which was running very strong, took the vessel on the starboard bow and carried her onto the reef where she struck heavily several times. In a few minutes she came off but was taking so much water that the pilot was compelled to run her ashore under Shortland Bluff, where she sank. A little cargo was landed, mostly by the exertions of certain local residents obviously trying to get something for nothing. The vessel however became a total wreck. (UID 9)

Statement of significance

<p>Significant as a C19th North American built international trade ship</p>

VHR history

After taking on a pilot, the ship remained outside Heads all night. The next morning ran for the Heads. Strong tide took vessel on starboard bow and carried it onto reef but after striking several times it came off. But taking in so much water, the pilot was compelled to run the vessel on shore under Shortlands Bluff, where it lay with water up to its decks. Master exonerated pilot from any blame. The buoy placed on the wreck of the Lady Harvey off Queenscliff Jetty in 1854, was removed in 1862; the wreck had disappeared. Loney raises the question as to whether this was the same Lady Harvey that was wrecked in 1858 at Barwon Heads. Clearly it was not - he confused details of the two vessels.