ASA PACKER

S46 AsaPacker
PaintingOfRescueByQueenscli
dateunknown

Location

Point Nepean, Port Phillip Heads

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S46

Date lost

24/05/1861

Official number

32526

Construction material

Wood

Hull

One deck and a poop; standing bowsprit, square stern, carvel built, no galleries, wooden planking, scroll head

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

Length/Breadth/Depth

123.40 Feet / 23.80 Feet / 11.70 Feet

Builder

Unknown

Built country

USA

Registration Number

13 of 1856

Registration Port

Sydney

Date lost

24/05/1861

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

Newcastle

Cargo

Ballast (UID: 72)

Owner

Robert Towns (shipowner) and Moses Moses (merchant)

Master

Captain J. Cordey

Weather conditions

Rough weather. Gale from the South West (UID: 152)

Cause of loss

Struck Nepean reef in south-west gale
 Pilot had refused to take vessel out because of rough weather but the Captain ignored this advise struck reef inside extreme end of Pint Nepean. Lifeboat, crewed by customs and

health officers after repeated attempts and endangering their own lives, finally succeeded in rescuing the crew. Some controversy as to whether telegraph disaster had been sent immediately to notify agents who clamed however that a tug was sent from Melbourne the morning of the wreck. Auctioned by H A Coffey for 130 pounds (valued at (800 pounds). (UID: 23

Number of crew

13

Statement of significance

<p>It is impossible to assess the archaeological significance of the vessel however the vessel is of some historical siginficance for its involvement in the intercolonial trades. If the wreck is located it may be of some archaeological significance depending on how intact the vessel is, in providing some information regarding the construction of the American barque that traded between the Australian colonies.</p>

VHR history

Went aground between Point Henry and Little River, Sept. 1853, soon got off. On last voyage, pilot refused to take vessel out because of bad weather, but master ignored pilot's advice and struck reef inside extreme end of Point Nepean. Lifeboat, crewed by Customs and Health officers, after repeated attempts, and endangering their own lives, finally succeeded in rescuing Asa Packer's crew. Some controversy as to whether telegraph of disaster had been sent immediately to notify agents, who claimed, however, that a tug was sent from Melbourne the morning of the wreck. 5 Vessel auctioned by H. A. Coffey for 130 pounds (valued at 800 pounds) Probably a good investment (see auction notice, Age 29 May 1861), as good weather held.