

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 12/07/24

NAIAD

Location

Point Addis

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S481

Date lost

30 Jun 1881

Construction material

Wood

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

1

Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 Feet / 0.00 Feet / 0.00 Feet

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

30 Jun 1881

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

Adelaide

Cargo

unknown

Owner

<1881: Mr Emmerson
 1881: Judge Boucant

Master

Richard Smales

Weather conditions

Gales

Cause of loss

Vessel sprang a leak and was intentionally beached at Point Addis where she went to pieces.

Number of crew

1

Crew comments

William Hill

Statement of significance

<p>The remains of the Naiad have not been fully inspected and so cannot be assessed for their archaeological significance. Little is know about its historical significance and there is potential for further research to determine its historical significance or otherwise. However it is the smallest vessel classified as an historic shipwreck along this coastline.</p>

VHR history

Described as a comfortable sea-going vessel, the cutter/ yacht Naiad seems to have been on its delivery voyage to Adelaide after recently being sold, when it was unfortunately wrecked.

 The two crew Richard Smales and William Hill arrived in Geelong from Jan Juc and reported to the police that the cutter yacht Naiad had been totally wrecked on the coast at Point Addis. The yacht which was 13 or 14 tons had been recently purchased from Mr Emmerson of Melbourne by Judge Boucant of Adelaide, and was bound for South Australia when wrecked. The Naiad started from Hobsons Bay on 19 June but returned due to gales outside the Heads, departing once again on 26 June. The yacht again encountered heavy gales soon after leaving Port Phillip Heads. However Cape Otway was rounded in safety and the Naiad reached Curdie's Inlet, near the wreck of the Schomberg where the full force of the gale was felt. Several sails were blown away and the yacht was hove to for several hours. As there was no sign of the storm abating, Smales and Hill decided to return to Port Phillip Heads but rounding the Otway the yacht sprang a leak, and became waterlogged and unmanageable. To save their own lives it was decided to beach the vessel at Point Addis where it broke up a few hours after striking the ground. Smales and Hill managed to reach the shore with difficulty. Both men lost clothing and Smales lost nautical instruments worth Â£30 (GA 4/7/1881). The men were found wandering along the shore by the manager of Mr Murchison's property at Jan Juc, and were cared for overnight. They went to Geelong the next day and, on application to the police, received free passes for the last train to Melbourne.

 The MHU has received a report of a cluster of rounded, riverine type rocks on the beach at Point Addis, foreign to this geographical area, which only rarely becomes exposed after storms. This is possibly the ballast of the small yacht, representing the

only significant extant remains of the vessel. An Amnesty custodian has also reported finding a nautical instrument (ships' compass) lodged in rocks at Bells Beach nearby, and by its location and the report of the valuable nautical instruments lost at the time by Smales, it seems likely this instrument came from the Naiad.