

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 03/10/24

NATAL

Location

Sealers Cove, Wilsons Promontory

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S484

Date lost

11/07/1865

Construction material

Wood

Hull

One deck and break, square stern, carvel built, woman's bust figurehead.
 Lloyds indicates that the vessel was originally built as a brig (ie, brig Natal had same tonnage, first owner and place of construction as barque Natal).

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

3

Length/Breadth/Depth

99.00 Feet / 20.70 Feet / 12.70 Feet

Year of construction

1849

Built port

Douglas, Isle of Man

Built country

England

Registration Number

No. 2 of 1860

Registration Port

Geelong

Date lost

11/07/1865

Departure

Newcastle

Destination

Melbourne

Cargo

271 tons of coal and 10 tons of maize

Owner

Peter Huddart, shipowner, of Geelong (1860-65)

Master

Captain P. Le Neven

Weather conditions

E gale

Cause of loss

Driven ashore after dragging anchors

Number of crew

7

Crew comments

7 or 8 crew

Statement of significance

<p>The Natal is archaeologically and technically significant as an example of an English merchant vessel built in the mid-nineteenth century. If remains of its hull are found intact will provide evidence to compare with the historical record. It may be a source of cultural relics relating to shipboard life aboard a mid-nineteenth century Australian coastal trading vessel.</p>

VHR history

The barque Natal encountered contrary winds after it left Newcastle on 2 July 1865 bound for Melbourne with a cargo of coal and maize. The captain decided to shelter off Sealers Cove after encountering a west to south-west gale. During the night of 10 July, a heavy gale blew in from the SE to ESE, blowing right onto the land. It was impossible to get under weigh, so the upper yards were sent down and all the cable run out on both anchors. With the Natal's bow pitching under the waves, the captain expected the vessel to part its cables. When one cable parted, the second anchor began to drag. With no hope of saving the vessel as it driven towards the rocks, the crew abandoned ship. Although the lifeboat was stove in on landing, all reached safety at Sealers Cove, where they were kindly treated by the fishermen stationed there. The Natal was a regular trader between Newcastle and Melbourne with coal. It was insured for 1,000 pounds and went ashore in the same gale as the Lady Young and Tomatin.