

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 27/09/24

ONTARIO

Location

Between Corsair Rock and Point Nepean, Port Phillip Heads

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S504

Date lost

14/11/1853

Construction material

Wood

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

3

Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 Feet / 0.00 Feet / 0.00 Feet

Year of construction

1845

Built port

Dumbarton

Built country

Scotland

Date lost

14/11/1853

Departure

London/Glasgow (depending on source)

Destination

Melbourne via Rio de Janeiro

Cargo

Full list in Argus, 17 November 1853 - spirits, wine, perfume, earthenware, drainpipes, soda, sugar, silk umbrellas, confectionary, pickles, jam, rice, beer, dried fruit, nuts, chocolate, spices, candles, resin, turpentine, and sundries (UID 9)

Owner

Henderson

Master

Captain D. Watson

Weather conditions

Clear weather, ebb tide
Wind SW force 3

Cause of loss

Entered heads behind the Marie, both without a pilot. Pilots Ashby and Flood discharged for negligence in not attending to their duty. Later appealed to Board of Investigation - result not known. Struck Corsair Rock. Location: Quarantine Station, Portsea. Vessel went to pieces twenty minutes after it struck, remains drifted up to South Channel and there sank.

Statement of significance

Significant as a mid nineteenth century international trader

VHR history

30 passengers and crew landed safely. Felt and yellow metalled 1852; part new keelson 1852; some repairs 1848, 1852; Lloyds classification A1 1852. Wreckers reportedly indulged in 'bacchanalian orgies' on plundered alcohol hidden in sand near wreck site. Entered Heads behind the Marie, both without a pilot. Pilots Ashby and Flood discharged for negligence in not attending to their duty. Later appealed to Board of Investigation - result not known. Vessel went to pieces twenty minutes after it struck, remains drifted up to South Channel and sank. Clear weather, ebb tide. Estimated loss 5,000 pounds. Corsair Rock first gazetted Nov. 1853. Ontario lost only 7 days after notice appeared.