

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

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## PILOT

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### Location

Hobsons Bay, Port Phillip Bay

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S531

### Date lost

07/03/1893

### Official number

74673

### Construction material

Wood

### Hull

1 deck, no masts, no rigging, round stern, carvel built, no galleries, no head.

### Propulsion

Steam - Screw

### Length/Breadth/Depth

62.80 Feet / 13.00 Feet / 6.10 Feet

### Builder

George White of Williamstown

### Year of construction

1877

### Built port

Williamstown, Victoria

**Built country**

Australia

**Registration Number**

20 of 1877

**Registration Port**

Melbourne

**Date lost**

07/03/1893

**Departure**

Working at sunken ship (Cape Verde)

**Cargo**

None

**Owner**

Alexander Grieve, mariner of Williamstown (48 shares), David

**Master**

Andrew Johnson

**Weather conditions**

SW gale

**Cause of loss**

Foundered against pontoon

**Number of crew**

5

**Crew comments**

Including 2 watermen, Burns (engineer), Young, Lyons.

**VHR history**

Had gone to take back one of cylinders moored to wreck of Cape Verde . While getting line to pontoon, a hawser fouled its propeller and the tug became unmanageable. The two men in skiff who tried to clear line managed to get back on to Pilot 's deck when skiff sank, but with heavy seas breaking over tug it began to sink. All jumped

safely for pontoon except Johnson, the master, who was jammed between steamer and pontoon but was dragged to safety by the others. With waves breaking over them, all except Johnson made for the rigging of the Cape Verde as the Pilot sank on port side of Cape Verde. Steamer Amy sounded alarm and the crew was rescued in a small boat and the customs launch. Johnson, who had remained on the cylinder, was rescued, half unconscious, with crushed ribs and a back injury Vessel's registration cancelled 29 May 1893. Had recently undergone extensive overhaul and repairs - one of strongest tugs of its class in Bay. Like Agnes , had earlier been a 'beer boat', carrying beer from Tasmania and Sydney to Williamstown and Port Melbourne.