

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 18/10/24

PRINCE OF THE SEAS

Location

Port Phillip Bay, Railway Pier, Hobsons Bay.

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S539

Date lost

15/11/1861

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Felt and yellow-metalled 1858; hackmatack, birch, red pine and oak sheathed with Muntz metal, copper fastened; repairs 1855, character for hull and stores - A1. 2 decks, 1/2 poop; carvel built, standing rigging, square stern, no galleries, woman's figurehead

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

3

Length/Breadth/Depth

193.00 Feet / 35.30 Feet / 22.30 Feet

Builder

James Smith & Sons

Year of construction

1853

Built port

St John, New Brunswick

Built country

Canada

Registration Port

Liverpool

Date lost

15/11/1861

Departure

Liverpool

Destination

Melbourne (voyage completed)

Cargo

Nearly all cargo discharged. 70 tons of railway iron,

Owner

White Star Line (Wilson & Co.)

Master

Captain H.A. Brown

Cause of loss

Caught fire at anchor at Railway Pier. Fire discovered about 9 pm.

Number of crew

27

VHR history

After catching fire, efforts made to tow vessel clear but bowsprit jammed against ship Alfred - with danger of a further fire. Masts went over side, ship became a mass of flames, burned to water's edge. Finally scuttled. Auctioned for 35 pounds, sale conditional on removal of wreck out of pier way. Inquiry before City Coroner and jury revealed no evidence to show how fire had originated; recommendation that railway men be more conversant with use of fire-fighting apparatus. Previously stranded at Heads on maiden voyage in 1854, had been abandoned to underwriters, salvaged and repaired. Had been the scene of knife attack by a seaman on second officer (The Age, 29 Oct. 1861)