

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 27/09/24

ROVER

Location

Blanket Bay, Cape Otway

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S587

Date lost

06/01/1892

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

06/01/1892

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

Blanket Bay

Cargo

Stores for Glenaire Station and cargo for Apollo Bay

Master

Henry Jeffrey

Weather conditions

Gale

Cause of loss

Blew onto rocks

Passenger comments

Mr Robert Formby and Mr Robinson

Crew comments

Daniel Cunningham

Statement of significance

<p>The remains of the Rover have not yet been reported nor located, and therefore it is impossible to assess its archaeological significance. However it has some historical significance as the remains of a typical small coastal trader ie: representative of a particular type, and as evidence of the difficulties of early trade and supply to the Otway coast.</p>

VHR history

Mounted-constable Peyton gave a full report to the superintendent of police of the total wreck of the cutter Rover at Blanket Bay on 6 January 1892. The vessel arrived at Blanket Bay at 5 pm on 6 January from Melbourne with a cargo mostly for Mr Reynold Robinson, proprietor of Glen Aire station at Cape Otway. During the night a gale sprang up and the vessel was driven ashore onto the rocks at Blanket Bay. The passengers reached the land with difficulty, while the crew remained with the vessel until they were compelled to abandon her (GA 13/1/1892).

 Part of the cargo was unloaded and transhipped to Apollo Bay the next day by the cutter Florence, with the remainder stored in the government goods shed (at Blanket Bay?). After unloading the cargo an attempt was made to tow the Rover off the rocks the next day, but this was unsuccessful.

 The cutter became a total wreck (Argus 12/1/1892). The risks of using Blanket Bay were made even more tragically evident four years later, when three men from the government steamer SS Lady Loch were drowned while trying to land supplies for the lighthouse (Bellair: 26).

 The remains of the Rover have not yet been located nor reported.