

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 27/09/24

THAMES

Location

North of Point Cook, Port Phillip Bay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S666

Date lost

18/02/1852

Construction material

Iron

Hull

One deck, round stern

Propulsion

Steam - Paddle

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

108.40 Feet / 14.70 Feet / 8.10 Feet

Builder

Ditchburn & Mare

Year of construction

1842

Built port

Blackwall

Built country

London

Registration Number

1846

Registration Port

Hobart

Date lost

18/02/1852

Departure

Melbourne

Destination

Geelong

Cargo

Not known

Owner

G. Swanston, representing a Melbourne syndicate

Master

Kemp (1847)

Weather conditions

Wind: SW; force 8; 3 pm.

Cause of loss

Struck reef near Point Cook

Statement of significance

<p>Significant as it is the 6th iron hulled vessel registered in Australia. Only paddle steamer wrecked in Port Phillip Bay, built in 1842.</p>

VHR history

Registered as a paddle steamer; rigged as a two-masted schooner. In heavy weather the Thames came close into shore and struck on a reef - it was then run ashore to save the lives of the passengers, and the cargo. The

passengers received hospitality at Mr Langhorne's station, near the beach. Unsuccessful attempts by the tug Kangaroo and lighters to get the steamer off. One source claimed it was insured for 2,000 pounds but value double that amount. Another stated 1,000 pounds. Lighter attached to the Thames sank at the same time. Arrived Hobart 10 Nov. 1843 after 4-1/2 month voyage from Britain. The Thames was the first iron-hulled steamer registered in Hobart, and the fourth in Australasia. Employed as general ferry around Hobart by Derwent Steam Boat Co., but financially unsuccessful so sold for the Bay trade, entering passenger service, Melbourne-Geelong Dec. 1847. Identification of Langhorne's property.