

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 11/10/24

TOMATIN

Location

Johnny Souey Cove, Wilsons Promontory

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S675

Date lost

11/07/1865

Official number

6905

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Felt & yellow metal sheathing; some repairs 1853; specialsurvey 1853

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

3

Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 Feet / 0.00 Feet / 0.00 Feet

Year of construction

1839

Built port

Greenock

Built country

Scotland

Registration Port

Geelong

Date lost

11/07/1865

Departure

Newcastle

Destination

Wallaroo, SA

Cargo

500 tons coal

Owner

Grierson and Simpson of Port Adelaide

Master

Captain J.M. Watson

Cause of loss

Ran ashore in an extremely heavy gale

Statement of significance

<p>The Tomatin site is one of three wrecks that sunk in the same gale along a three-kilometre section of the east coast of Wilsons Promontory.</p>
 <p>Despite the likelihood of salvage of parts of the wreck soon after its loss, the fine sand bottom of the site would probably 'liquify' in storm conditions, allowing heavy material to become buried in the sediment.</p>
 <p>The Tomatin site has the greatest potential for preservation of archaeological remains of the three sites, thus the site has the greatest potential scientific significance of any of the three sites.</p>
 <p>In historical terms, Tomatin, Elmgrove and Miranda are significant as a group of nineteenth century coastal trading vessels.</p>

VHR history

A severe gale on the Gippsland coast in July 1865 claimed three colliers sheltering at Wilsons Promontory, the Natal, Lady Young and Tomatin. After one of the Tomatin's anchor chains parted, the crew attempted to sail into the lee of Rabbit Island. However, the force of the gale was so great that the vessel was driven onto rocks on the mainland where it broke up rapidly. The crew abandoned ship before the Tomatin struck, and they were able to reach safety in Sealers Cove.