

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 02/10/24

W. GORDON

Location

Cape Otway, disappeared at sea

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S730

Date lost

09/1876

Construction material

Wood

Hull

part Iron Bolted (Lloyds)

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

2

Length/Breadth/Depth

118.40 Feet / 28.00 Feet / 11.80 Feet

Builder

Donald McDonald

Year of construction

1866

Built port

New Glasgow, Nova Scotia

Built country

Canada

Registration Number

55513

Registration Port

Ardrossan

Date lost

09/1876

Departure

The Clyde (Scotland)

Destination

Adelaide via Capetown

Cargo

unknown

Owner

J. Gibson

Master

J. Campbell

Cause of loss

Missing at sea

Number of crew

10

Statement of significance

<p>The W. Gordon is significant as an international vessel bound from Scotland for Australia. As the site has not been located its archaeological significance is not known.</p>

VHR history

The 398 tons gross, Canadian-built wooden brigantine W. Gordon was owned in the late 1860s by Canadian merchants, and was involved in voyages between Pictou and the USA. (Maritime Museum, Halifax, Nova

Scotia)

 While on a voyage from Scotland to Adelaide via Capetown, the W. Gordon disappeared at sea. It is known to have departed Cape Town with ten crew in June 1876, and a name board was found washed up at Cape Otway in September 1876 (Loney, 1982).

 The Lloyds Register entry for the W. Gordon states 'Foundered' (Lloyds Register 1877-78).

 A voyage from Cape Town to Australia might take between one and two months at the most. No other site remains have been reported nor located. It is possible, if not most likely, that the W. Gordon was wrecked further west than Cape Otway. It may have disappeared at sea in a storm, or struck land or reefs further west while approaching Adelaide eg; Kangaroo Island.