

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

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## W. GORDON

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### 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)<br /> <br /> 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).<br /> <br /> The Lloyds Register entry for the W. Gordon states 'Foundered' (Lloyds Register 1877-78).<br /> <br /> 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.