

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 17/08/24

UNIDENTIFIED: Separation Creek

Location

1100 metres east of Separation Creek

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S794

Date lost

1900

Construction material

Wood

Hull

copper sheathed, copper fastened, timber hull

Propulsion

Sail

Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 / 0.00 / 0.00

Date lost

1900

Statement of significance

<p>The Separation Creek unidentified wreck is archaeologically significant, as any artefact found in context that can be positively associated with the wreck to identify it is important.</p>

VHR history

The Separation Creek unidentified site is scattered on the rock shore platform, with few substantial remains. More remains have been reported to be in deeper water off the platform. It has been identified so far only as the remains of a small, wooden sailing vessel, copper sheathed and iron fastened. Measurements of the anchor

chains and hawse pipes indicate a vessel between 70-150 tons. The site is very scattered and fragmented lying in the intertidal zone on top of a rocky reef platform. The major features being the chain, rigging fittings, cast iron sink, large iron concretions and a scattering of iron and copper alloy fastenings. This matches most closely with the dimensions of the Mary Cumming (106.08 tons), which was abandoned by the crew near Cape Patton - it is possible that the Mary Cumming, or sections of it, were washed up the coast with prevailing winds and currents to be deposited in this area.

The wreckage has also been surmised to have belonged to the Black Watch (93 tons - disappeared 25 miles west of Cape Otway) and the Seabird (13 tons - blown ashore at Cape Patton).

Another report is that an engine has been found in association with the wreckage, along with more copper sheathing and an anchor (M. Brady, 2000). If the engine is associated with the shipwreck (and not one of the Great Ocean Road's many car casualties) it indicates a later, post 1900s wreck, likely to be a motor sailing schooner or ketch.

This site still requires further survey work to document the wreckage in the water.