

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

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## BOUJAH MAIDEN

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### Location

Indented Head, Port Phillip Bay

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S81

### Date lost

1856

### Official number

40941

### Construction material

Wood

### Propulsion

Sail

### Number of masts

2

### Length/Breadth/Depth

34.50 Feet / 12.10 Feet / 5.40 Feet

### Builder

John Thrum

### Year of construction

1839

### Built port

Darling Harbour, Sydney

## **Built country**

Australia

## **Registration Number**

4 of 1852

## **Registration Port**

Geelong

## **Date lost**

1856

## **Cargo**

Had previously "run anchors" (UID 143), and had a cargo of wood when sunk in 1851 (UID: 9), and of wool when stranded in 1849 (UID: 28)

## **Owner**

John Champion and A. Leighy

## **Weather conditions**

Storm

## **Cause of loss**

Lost in storm Dates of loss disputed - some say 1862 (UID 41, 28, 114, 52). However, the Custom register is closed with "Lost at Indented Head, Pt. Phillip in 1856" (UID: 2)

## **Statement of significance**

This vessel is significant in the fact that it represents a unique type of vessel, Australian built coast trader constructed in the very early stages of Australian settlement. It is for this reason it is of archaeological significance in that it may yield information about the way in which Australian built wooden coastal traders were constructed during the early stages of the 19th century and what materials were used in the construction of these ships. However, the degree of significance is difficult to determine as the site has not been located.

## **VHR history**

During 1840, sailed between Melbourne, Geelong and Launceston. Apparently not registered until 1848 in Melbourne. In 1849 went ashore at entrance to Corio Bay, refloated. In September 1851, capsized in squall near Point Henry, drowning owner-master. Raised a month later, sold and subsequently registered at Geelong. Parsons claims vessel sank in 1856 but date registry closed (26 Jan. 1862) was taken by Williams - and perpetuated by Loney - as date of sinking.