

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 18/10/24

BRIGHTON

Location

Western Port

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S83

Date lost

14/07/1855

Official number

none

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Standing bowsprit, square stern, carvel built, billet head, two decks (the captain's account of the wreck states that the water rose above the tween decks).

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

3

Length/Breadth/Depth

108.90 Feet / 23.30 Feet / 19.10 Feet

Year of construction

1832

Built port

Brooklyn, Massachusetts

Built country

United States of America

Registration Number

79 of 1854

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

14/07/1855

Departure

Newcastle

Destination

Melbourne

Cargo

658 tons of Coal

Owner

James Raven

Master

Captain Peacock

Weather conditions

Heavy squall

Cause of loss

Was run ashore after striking a spit

Statement of significance

<p>The vessel is significant in that it represents a wooden barque constructed in a foreign country built in the early 1830s. The vessel constructed in Brooklyn, US may yield information about the construction of wooden barques used in international trades, however it is difficult to assess due to the wreck location being unknown and therefore no inspection has taken place to record any archaeological significance.</p>

VHR history

The barque Brighton ran ashore near Cape Schank when the master mistook the entrance of Western Port for the entrance to Port Phillip. The Brighton was floated off the sand spit where it struck, but it was leaking badly and was beached. The crew reached safety, but the vessel was a total wreck.

"This barque, which had been plying between Melbourne and Newcastle, N.S.W. for some time was wrecked on the 14th Instant....Saturday July 14th 1855, fresh breeze and cloudy weather. Hands employed variously. At 5pm tacked ship to westward. At 8.00pm Cape Schank bore N.E., distant seven miles. Thick hazy weather; wind N.W. , Took in top gallant sails and furled the main sail. Head W.S.W. At 10.00pm, heavy rain and strong breeze; midnight same weather. At 3 a.m. tacked ship to the northwards. At 4, heavy rain and hazy weather. At 5, same running along the land, supposing it to be the Port Phillip side, steering N.E. by N. At 7.30, thick and heavy rain. Ship struck and found we had been steering into Western Port. A strong current must have been setting to the northward; and in consequence of the thick weather, mistook the Schank for Sandy Point. Ship struck heavily...At 11, got off the spit, and ran her on shore full of water."

VHR: The barque Brighton ran ashore near Cape Schank when the master mistook the entrance for Western Port for the entrance to Port Phillip. The Brighton was floated off the sand spit where it struck, but it was leaking badly and was beached. The crew reached safety, but the vessel was a total wreck.

The Age reported (20 July 1855) that 'a gentleman' who had just returned from Phillip Island had seen a vessel ashore near Sandy Point, between Phillip Island and the mainland, off Dr Barkers Station: "She is surrounded by breakers, near the shore..."