

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 18/07/24

BALDROCK

Location

Back of Williamstown Rifle Range, Port Phillip Bay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S840

Date lost

1928

Official number

89302

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Double ended paddle steamer passenger ferry, open wheelhouses fore and aft of funnel, limited covered accommodation for passengers.

Propulsion

Steam - Paddle

Engine specification

35h.p. engine, 8 knots

Length/Breadth/Depth

112.40 Feet / 18.20 Feet / 6.70 Feet

Builder

George Duncan

Year of construction

1884

Built port

Balmain, Sydney

Built country

Australia

Registration Number

89302/ 1907

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

1928

Owner

1884: W.J. Watson & Partners
 1886: Thomas Heselton and H. Perdriau
 1888: Balmain Steam Ferry Co. Ltd.
 Sept 1900: Watson Bay and South Shore Ferry Co. (renamed Vaucluse)
 1906: Balmain Steam Ferry Co. (renamed Baldrock)
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Cause of loss

Scuttled, broken up

Statement of significance

<p>The Baldrock is significant for its long career as a Sydney and Melbourne passenger ferry, and later as a tug and lighter.</p>

VHR history

Operated as a Hobsons Bay ferry between 1907-11. Not popular with passengers due to lack of enclosed accommodation, and suffered continual engine and boiler problems. Ports and Harbours/ Public Works Dept converted into a tug for use towing powder barges to the Altona Explosives anchorage.
 Register closed 9/2/1928 'Vessel broken up'