

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 18/07/24

BRITON

Location

Point Henry, Corio Bay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S86

Date lost

31/01/1890

Official number

48416

Construction material

Wood

Hull

Wood, carvel built, 2 decks, no galleries or head

Propulsion

Sail

Number of masts

3

Length/Breadth/Depth

140.00 Feet / 28.60 Feet / 18.00 Feet

Builder

James Nichol of Melbourne

Year of construction

1864

Built port

Invercargill

Built country

New Zealand

Registration Number

32 of 1876

Registration Port

Melbourne

Date lost

31/01/1890

Cargo

None
 Had previously carried guano (UID 9)

Owner

Wm. Howard Smith & Sons 1876-1890

Weather conditions

Heavy gale

Cause of loss

Sank at moorings

Statement of significance

<p>The wreck is significant socially for its use as a landing stage for the popular Bellarine Tea Gardens. It is difficult to assess archaeological significance due to the structure being modified throughout its career, however the site has not been inspected.</p>

VHR history

Moved further inshore to 1/4 mile west of hulk of City of Melbourne , in 9 ft of water. A former barque, after re-building from wreck of the ship, New Great Britain . Hulk occasionally used as landing stage for popular Bellarine Tea Gardens, with passengers being picked up by paddle steamer Bellarine. On return journey picked up by Bay steamer, Edina from Geelong. 4 In 1876 traded between Melbourne and Geelong. Blasting took place in 1907 on an old hulk near Point Henry, presumably either the Briton or the City of Melbourne. Selective research only reveals that between 1877 and 1882 Briton was used as a lighter around Melbourne.