

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 13/10/24

UNCONFIRMED BURIED WRECK MCKLOUGHLINS BEACH

Location

In sand dunes in the vicinity of McLoughlins Beach/ Reeves Beach, Ninety Mile Beach

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S875

Date lost

1830

Construction material

Wood

Hull

wood, trenail fastenings

Propulsion

Sail

Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 / 0.00 / 0.00

Date lost

1830

Statement of significance

<p>The unidentified wreck at Woodside may be Victoria's earliest known shipwreck, given its location buried beneath a secondary beach dune, timber sample results and lack of historical information. It may be evidence of early sealing or whaling activities</p>

VHR history

Oil drilling exploration activities in the dunes in the vicinity of McLoughlins Beach found the remains of a shipwreck high in the sand dunes between bore holes. This may possibly be the remains of the Sarah or Britannia, known to have wrecked in this area in the 1830s, and related to the White Woman legend. Artefacts such as the figurehead of the Sarah were reported by the Port Albert harbourmaster at the time. May also be early sealer - see below:

Tag attached to timber sample found in Victoria Archaeological Survey laboratory in 1990 states: "Piece of ship buried in dune sands near coast by Dr. B____, Mines Department, Victoria. The dune was cut through by a bulldozer during making of tracks to (illegible) equipment for putting down Woodside Oil Bores. The site is halfway between bores 3 and 4 (see Condon, Fisher and Terpstra 1958 bulletin on oil boring published by Bureau of Mineral Resources. Wood checked by Mr. I____, wood structure section CSIRO Forest Products and found to be oregon pine. Probably early sealer before Victoria settled. From U.S.A.? Royal Historical Society of Victoria say they know all wrecks along coast in historical times but cannot place this one. Position suggests been there a long time, as also does the rather humidified condition of the timber" (author unknown).