

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated on - 30/04/24

Alfred

Location

Middle Island, Warrnambool

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

S886

Date lost

19 Dec 1859

Construction material

Iron

Hull

lighter

Length/Breadth/Depth

0.00 / 0.00 / 0.00

Date lost

19 Dec 1859

Cargo

rock and stone - placement ballast

Owner

Board of Land and Works, Melbourne

Cause of loss

Scuttled

Statement of significance

<p>The lighter wreck has local significance for its involvement with the development of Warrnambool as a safe harbour, and as part of the maritime infrastructure of Middle Island Lightstation.</p>

VHR history

A small lighter wreck under the old Middle Island lighthouse island loading platform/ rock was purposely scuttled to form a jetty to allow loading and unloading of stores for the Middle Island Lightstation. The first Middle Island lightkeeper Robert Deverell states in his Log (Warrnambool Lighthouse Journal):
 " 19 December. Placed the Iron Lighter Alfred for the purpose of a boat jetty."

 In 1866 Warrnambool Harbour Master Capt. Helpman mentions that the hatches of the iron lighter had been washed away by storms and feared that gales would wash away the stone and concrete (filling the hull?).

 The old Warrnambool Middle Island lighthouse (1859-1872) and keepersâ?? cottages were later moved stone by stone to Flagstaff Hill in 1872. The lighter has an iron hull with iron frames, and has a large rock in it, the bow facing west. The bow is pointed and it has a flat/ transom stern.