

Major Vessels Built at the Tasmanian Government Dockyards.

(From *Convict Shipbuilding and the Port Arthur Dockyard*, by Mike Nash for Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority, 2001).

This chronological list includes all major craft built by convict labour at the government dockyards of Sarah Island and Port Arthur, excluding a number of unnamed small tugs and lighters. The information includes; type of rig, tonnage, dimensions (length x breadth x depth), when and where built, building supervisor, initial Tasmanian registration details (number and year), fate of the vessel where known. Further information on each vessel and its owners can be found in the registers of British shipping available at the repositories of the National Archives of Australia in each state. Details for Hobart registered vessels prior to 1855 can also be found at the Archives Office of Tasmania (CUS 38). Information on voyages undertaken up to 1850 can be found in the three volumes of *Tasmanian Shipping Arrivals and Departures* and similar volumes for other Australian states. It should also be noted that the estimations of tonnages by the original builders of some of the vessels are at variance with the tonnages given by official survey and registration. This is partially explained by changes in the calculations of tonnage in 1834 from what is known as 'Old Measurement' to 'New Measurement'.

Governor Sorrel

Two masted schooner of 35 ton measuring 43' x 13'5" x 6'5". Clinker built with a single deck. Completed in February 1824 at the Sarah Island dockyard. Sold out of government service in March 1824 for £380 to John Watson of Hobart. Wrecked in October 1827 at Hope Beach, Tasmania.

James Lucas

Sloop rigged decked lighter of unknown tonnage and dimensions. Completed in 1825 by Newton Gray at the Sarah Island dockyard. Wrecked at Bruny Island, Tasmania in May 1829 while on a voyage from Macquarie Harbour to Hobart.

Despatch

Two masted schooner of 20/25 tons and unknown dimensions. Completed in December 1825 by Newton Gray at the Sarah Island dockyard. Shortly after coming into government service the vessel went missing in March 1826 during a voyage from Hobart to Maria Island

Derwent

Two masted brig of 81 tons measuring 55' x 18'11' x 11'. Carvel built with a single deck and a square stern. Launched in January 1827 and completed in May 1827 by Thomas Cole at the Sarah Island dockyard. In government service until at least December 1830 when it took the

first party to Port Arthur then no further shipping movements. From evidence in Marine Department letterbooks the vessel is believed to have been hulked at Hobart during 1831.

Opossum

One masted cutter of 19 and 2590/3500th tons measuring 36.2' x 10.8' x 6.4'. Carvel built with a single deck and a square stern. Commenced by Thomas Cole and completed by Newton Gray in October 1827 at the Sarah Island dockyard. Sold out of government service in 1842 to Thomas Drew and registered at Launceston (8/1842). Register transferred to Melbourne in December 1848 (14/1848). Wrecked in 1853 at Point Nepean, Victoria.

Tamar

Two masted brig of 99 and 1575/3500th tons measuring 67.4' x 19.2' x 10.7'. Carvel built with a single deck and a square stern. Launched in December 1828 and completed in August 1829 by David Hoy at the Sarah Island dockyard. Sold out of government service in November 1844 to William Young and registered at Hobart as the *Elizabeth Rebecca* (19/1844). Wrecked on a whaling voyage in April 1845 at Trial Harbour, South Australia.

Charlotte

One masted sloop of 28 and 3174/3500th tons measuring 46.4' x 13.8' x 7'. Carvel built with a single deck and a square stern. Launched in May 1829 by David Hoy at the Sarah Island dockyard. Sold out of government service in April 1837 to Richard Griffiths and registered at Hobart (7/1837). Wrecked on 28 August 1843 at Four Mile Creek, Tasmania

Badger

Two masted schooner of approximately 20 tons check. Built in 1829 by David Hoy at the Sarah Island dockyard. Vessel in government service by December 1829. Seized by convict crew at Hobart on 28 July 1833 and reported to have been subsequently wrecked in northern Australian waters.

Clyde

One masted sloop of 16 and 19/94th tons measuring 34'3" x 10'10" x 5'7". Carvel built with one deck and a square stern. Launched in October 1829 by David Hoy at the Sarah Island dockyard. Sold out of government service in October 1830 to George Bridges and registered at Hobart as the *Robulla* (3/1831). Register transferred to Sydney in 1836 (32/1836). Reported to have been wrecked in 1841.

Isabella

Two masted brig of 124 and 100/3500th tons measuring 72.1' x 21.2' x 11.4'. Carvel built with a single deck and a square stern. Launched in August 1830 by David Hoy at the Sarah Island

dockyard. Sold out of government service in July 1845 for £1,380 to Augustus Kramer and registered at Hobart (20/1845). Wrecked in July 1845 at Port Albert, Victoria.

Adelaide

Two masted brigantine of 92 and 54/94th tons measuring 65' x 18'7" x 10'3'. Carvel built with a single deck and a square stern. Launched in December 1831 and completed in January 1832 by David Hoy at the Sarah Island dockyard. Sold out of government service in May 1832 to John Petchey and registered at Hobart (6/1832). Completed four whaling voyages 1834 to 1835. In 1852 the register was transferred to Melbourne (4/1852). Wrecked on 17 April 1861 at MacDonnel Bay, South Australia.

William the Fourth

Three masted barque of 199 and 3/94th tons measuring 83' x 24'4" x 13'6". Carvel built with one deck and a square stern. Completed in May 1831 by David Hoy at the Sarah Island dockyard. Sold out of government service in July 1831 to Thomas Horne and registered at Hobart (12/1831). Completed nine whaling voyages 1831-1842. Condemned in 1845 at Amoy, China after suffering storm damage.

Penelope

Two masted schooner of 35 and 22/94th tons measuring 48'6" x 13' x 6'3". Carvel built with one deck and a square stern. Launched in February 1832 by David Hoy at the Sarah Island dockyard. Sold out of government service in August 1833 to William Mortimer and registered at Hobart (14/1833). Last reported in November 1834 departing for a voyage to the 'South Seas'.

Shamrock

One masted cutter of 31 and 1462/3500th tons measuring 46.6' x 15' x 7.5'. Carvel built with a single deck and a square stern. Launched in May 1832 by David Hoy at the Sarah Island dockyard. Sold out of government service in May 1839 to Duncan McPherson and registered at Hobart (11/1839). Wrecked in May 1845 at the Tasman Peninsula, Tasmania.

Shannon

Two masted schooner of approximately 32 tons. Launched in September 1832 by David Hoy at the Sarah Island dockyard. Lost while in government service in October 1834 during a voyage from Port Arthur to Hobart.

Industry

Two masted schooner of 16 and 64/94th tons measuring 35'10" x 10'7" x 5'. Carvel built with one deck and a square stern. Completed in 1832 by David Hoy at the Sarah Island dockyard.

Sold out of government service in April 1833 to Joshua Ferguson and registered at Hobart (8/1833). Vessel last noted in 1843 and subsequent fate unknown.

Frederick

Two masted brig of approximately 120 tons. Launched in December 1833 and completed January 1834 by David Hoy at the Sarah Island dockyard. Vessel seized by convicts shortly after completion and taken to Chile where it was abandoned in February 1834.

Tasmania

Two masted schooner of 18 and 9/94th tons measuring 33'8" x 11'8" x 5'. Carvel built with one deck and a square stern. Launched during 1833 by David Hoy at the Sarah Island dockyard and possibly completed at Port Arthur in the same year. Sold out of government service in 1834 to George Peart and registered at Hobart (1/1834). Vessel reported to have been stolen by escaping convicts in March 1834 and disappears from register.

Kangaroo

Two masted schooner of 19 tons. Launched at the Port Arthur dockyard in September 1833 and in government service until at least 1836. Details of subsequent career not located.

Eliza

Two masted schooner of 97 and 1895/3500th tons measuring 70.5' x 19.4' x 10.9' (note that tonnage of 144 estimated by original builder). Carvel built with one deck and a square stern. Launched on 14 May 1835 by John Watson at the Port Arthur dockyard. Named after Lieutenant Governor Arthur's wife. Delays in fitting out and maiden voyage to Hobart not undertaken until August 1835. Armed with two guns and described as a remarkably fast craft the *Eliza* was intended as a revenue cutter and pursuit vessel. Renamed *Mary* in 1844 and reverted to *Eliza* in 1848. Sold out of government service in October 1848 for £675 to John Johnson and registered at Hobart (45/1848). Register subsequently transferred to Sydney in 1852 (77/1852), to Dunedin in 1863 (16/1863) and to Melbourne in 1864 (5/1864).

Emily

Two masted schooner of 19 and 706/3500th tons measuring 39.4' x 11.3' x 5.5'. Carvel built with one deck and a square stern. Built in 1835 by John Watson at the Port Arthur dockyard. Sold out of government service in August 1850 to Joseph Cordell and registered at Launceston (17/1850). Register transferred to Melbourne in 1853 (146/1853). Wrecked in July 1870 at Indented Head, Victoria.

Fusilier

Believed to have been originally built as a buoy boat of 24 tons by David Hoy at the Port Arthur dockyard in 1837. Probably the same unregistered schooner belonging to Charles Briscoe that was wrecked in March 1866 on the Derwent River.

Fanny

Three masted barquentine of 284 and 265/3500th tons measuring 87.5' x 23.8' x 16.3'. Carvel built with two decks and a square stern. Vessel started by John Watson and completed by David Hoy. Launched 29 December 1837 at Port Arthur and christened by Mrs Charlotte Lempriere after the daughter of Lieutenant Governor Arthur. Underwent sea trials in July 1838 and arrived at Hobart by August. Sold in October 1838 to George Watson and Alfred Garrett and registered at Hobart as the *Wallaby* (13/1838). Completed 14 whaling voyages out of Hobart between 1839 and 1851. Wrecked during a whaling voyage on 21 October 1851 at Fanning Island, North Pacific.

Booth

Two masted schooner of 9 and 1116/3500th tons measuring 31.6' x 8.7' x 4.5'. Carvel built with a single deck and a square stern. Launched in February 1838 by David Hoy at the Port Arthur dockyard. Named after the Commandant of the Port Arthur settlement. Sold out of government service in August 1838 to Frederick Downing and later registered at Hobart (21/1839). Vessel last registered at Hobart in August 1841 to Thomas Chuter then no further trace.

Derwent

Paddle steamer of 48 and 2015/3500th tons register measuring 84.3' x 14.9' x 9.1'. Carvel built with a single deck, square stern and sloop rigged with a single mast. Construction began in September 1838 and hull completed in November 1839 by David Hoy at the Port Arthur dockyard. Hull sold to Derwent Steam Navigation Company who completed fitting out and installation of steam engine at Hobart during 1840. Vessel registered in February 1841 at Hobart (6/1841). Purchased by government in May 1849 and renamed *Rapid*. Sold out of government service in 1859 and register transferred to Sydney (34/1859).

Terror

Two masted schooner of around 17 tons measuring 42.8' x 11.4' x 5'. Carvel built with a single deck and a square stern. Completed in 1841 by David Hoy at the Port Arthur dockyard. In February 1844 the vessel was sold out of government service but not registered. Apparently rebuilt as a cutter by B. Johnson in 1850 and was registered to George Morgan at Hobart (11/1852). Register closed at an undated time with information that vessel had been 'lost' since 1853.

Lady Franklin

Three masted barque of 269 tons measuring 90' x 26.3' x 17.8'. Carvel built with two decks and a square stern. Launched in December 1841 and completed in March 1842 by David Hoy at the Port Arthur dockyard. Sold out of government service in 1855 and registered at Hobart as the *Emily Downing* (21/1855 Hobart). Completed 25 whaling voyages between 1858 and 1883 out of Hobart. Hulked at Hobart in 1885 and broken up in 1907.

Swallow

Two masted schooner of 23 tons measuring 44' x 12'2" x 5'3" Completed in 1842 by David Hoy at the Port Arthur dockyard. Vessel remained in government service until October 1850 when it was seized by crew and later stranded at Port Albert, Victoria. Refloated and sold at Port Albert and subsequently reported to be wrecked in June 1851 near Port Phillip Heads.

Black Diamond

Two masted schooner of 22 and 984/3500th tons measuring 46.5' x 10.8' x 5.8'. Carvel built with one deck and a square stern. Built in 1842/43 by David Hoy at the Port Arthur dockyard. Sold out of government service in 1843 to the Derwent Steam Navigation Company and registered at Hobart (22/1843). Last recorded in 1848 and fate unknown.

Eleanor

Two masted schooner of 117 and 2746/3500th tons measuring 79.6' x 20' x 11.6'. Carvel built with one decks and a square stern. Launched in July 1843 by David Hoy at the Port Arthur dockyard. Named after the daughter of Lieutenant Governor Arthur. Sold out of government service in July 1844 to John Johnson and registered at Hobart as the *Eliza* (15/1844). Completed one whaling voyage in 1849. Register transferred in 1853 to Melbourne (31/1853). Wrecked on 16 December 1866 at Port Fairy, Victoria.

Lady Denison

Three masted barque of 158 and 1524/3500th tons measuring 85.9' x 22.9' x 11.4'. Carvel built with one and a quarter decks and a square stern. Launched in June 1847 and completed in August 1847 by David Hoy at the Port Arthur dockyard. Sold in September 1847 for £1,200 to Nathan, Moses and Co. and registered at Hobart (1/1848). Vessel disappeared in April 1848 on a voyage from Adelaide to Hobart and was probably wrecked on the Tasmanian west coast.

Pilot

Three masted schooner of 90 and 727/3500th tons measuring 80' x 14.6' x 8.7'. Carvel built with one and a quarter decks and a square stern. Originally intended as a government steamship but not needed due to the purchase of PS *Kangaroo*. Completed in February 1848 by David Hoy at the Port Arthur dockyard. Subsequently sold without engines to builder David

Hoy for £430 and registered at Hobart (12/1848). Transferred in 1864 to Melbourne register (54/1864). Wrecked in August 1870 at New Caledonia.

Lucy

Two masted brig of 108 and 1910/3500th tons measuring 73.4' x 18.5' x 10.4'. Carvel built with one deck and a square stern. Launched and completed in October 1848 by David Hoy at the Port Arthur dockyard. Sold out of government service for £425 in 1849 to Manning Brothers and registered at Hobart as the *Helen* (31/1849). Wrecked on 14 July 1852 at Prossers Bay, Tasmania.