

SHIPWRECKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

DOROTHY H. STERLING - Garden Island

The six-masted schooner *Dorothy H. Sterling* (formerly the *Oregon Pine*) was built in 1920 by the Peninsular Shipping Company of Portland, Oregon, USA. The wooden hulled vessel of 2526 gross tons measured 267.0 feet (81.4 m) in length, 46.5 feet (15.3 m) breadth and 25.2 feet (7.7 m) depth.

The *Dorothy H. Sterling* was a victim of the Great Depression. When it arrived in Port Adelaide in 1929 with a cargo of timber from the USA, unpaid harbour dues resulted in the schooner being seized and offered at auction. Bids did not reach the reserve and the vessel was eventually sold to a local shipbreaker.

During the next three years the schooner was systematically dismantled in Port Adelaide, with parts of the vessel finding alternate uses.

On 6 June 1932 the gutted hull was towed to the eastern end of the North Arm to be broken apart by the unemployed as a source of free firewood.



Dorothy H. Sterling as the *Oregon Pine* (Photo: State Library of Victoria)

The *Dorothy H. Sterling* was the largest vessel abandoned in the Garden Island Ships' Graveyard. Today the remains of the hull are easily seen above and below water. They form a small island, covered by silt and colonised by mangroves.



Remains of *Dorothy H. Sterling* at Garden Island

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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