

# SHIPWRECKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



## PORT AUGUSTA SHIPS' GRAVEYARD

The remains of at least six wooden and iron vessels located in the Port Augusta area appear to have been barges or lighters used locally, but abandoned when no longer required.

### **Barge No. 4 (referred to as *Old Jeny*)**

The substantial remains of this vessel are a familiar sight on the bank, north-east of the original Great Western Bridge.

Photographs of the vessel, taken in the 1950s, describe this vessel as a hulk named *Old Jeny*, although where this name originated is unknown.

The barge appears to have been one of four identical barges built on the River Murray at Mannum during the 1880s, and later brought into Spencer Gulf. In May 1944 the barge was brought to Port Augusta by the Engineering and Water Supply Department to carry the pile driver used to extend the bridge so that it could carry the new Morgan-Whyalla Pipeline, which was then under construction.

After the bridgework was complete, the barge was sold on the bank on 7 September 1944 to one C.L. Sunman, who apparently later transferred it to one J.W. Fullerton.

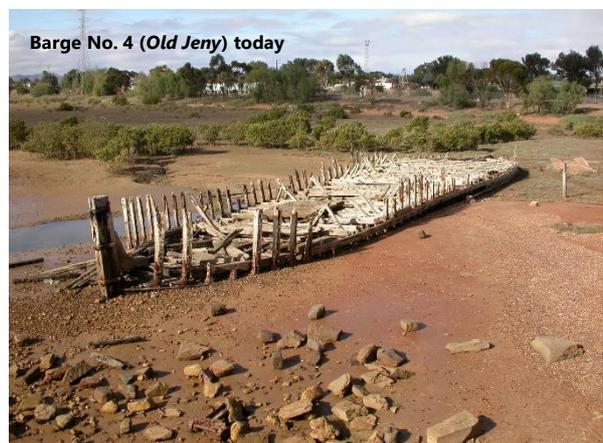
It appears that neither of these gentlemen ever made use of the barge and it was abandoned, as is, where is, to slowly rot and fall apart. The site is protected as an historic shipwreck under the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981*.



Barge No. 4 (*Old Jeny*) in 1950s (SLSA B-60892)



Wooden barge *Old Jeny*, 1980s



Barge No. 4 (*Old Jeny*) today

### Unidentified Wooden Barge - Old Salt Works

The remains of another wooden barge, similar to the more intact one located by the Great Western Bridge, are located in the mangroves on the northern side of the old salt works, about 5 km north of Port Augusta. The history of this vessel is unknown but it may have been used for the transhipment of salt to the Port Augusta wharves.



### Unidentified Wooden Punt - Old Salt Works

The remains of another wooden vessel, likely to be a small punt, are located in the mangroves on the western side of the former railway abutment at the old salt works, near to the barge. It is likely that this vessel was used for locally crossing of the gulf.



### Unidentified Wooden Vessel - Back Beach

The outline of a vessel ("rotted to the ground") is evident in the mud at low tide near the Flying Doctor Station at Back Beach. There is little structure remaining; the most obvious feature is the partially scattered ballast rocks.



### Unidentified Iron Barge - Caravan Park

The remains of an iron barge are located in the mangroves, south east of the Shoreline Caravan Park, Port Augusta West, about 1 km north of the bridge. The early history of this barge has not yet been identified but during the early 1930s it was converted to a floating dance 'palais' before a storm broke its moorings allowing it to drift north and run aground where it has remained ever since.



### Unidentified Iron Vessel - Boat Ramp

The remains of an iron vessel (possibly a pontoon as indicated by the 1993 photo at right) are located on the edge of the mangrove stand, south of the Carpenters Landing boat ramp at Port Augusta West. There is n't much visible above the ground so you may have to look carefully

**Iron pontoon, 1993**



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### Heritage South Australia

Department for Environment and Water

P (08) 8124 4960

E DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au

[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)