

SHIPWRECKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SANTIAGO - Garden Island

Henry Balfour and Company built the three masted barque *Santiago* in 1856 in Methil, Scotland for S Williamson and Company. The iron hulled vessel measured 160.6 feet (49.0 m) in length, 25.9 feet (7.9 m) breadth, 17.4 feet (5.3 m) depth and was 455 gross tons.

The *Santiago* was originally built for the British-South American trade, but operated mainly between northern European ports as well as to destinations in the southern hemisphere. It was dismasted on the east coast of Australia circa 1900, and in August the following year travelled from Newcastle to Port Adelaide with a cargo of coal. On arrival it was converted to a hulk by its new owner, the Adelaide Steam Tug Company. It was also employed in lightering work and on occasion assisted with the salvage of stranded vessels. On 19 August 1945 the *Santiago* was abandoned at the eastern extent of the North Arm, being the last vessel abandoned in the Garden Island Ships' Graveyard.

Today the *Santiago's* mostly intact hull is exposed above the river level. The masts have been cut off and lay next to other fittings lying within the structure and outside the hull. The *Santiago* is the oldest vessel in the Graveyard. It is a rare example of an early iron-built sailing vessel and has been declared an historic shipwreck under the South Australian [Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981](#).



Santiago as a coal hulk, c1930s
Photo: Ron Blum



Attaching anodes to the hull, 1995



Santiago in the North Arm, 2000

FOR MORE INFORMATION

State Heritage Unit

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

P (08) 8124 4960

E DEWNRHeritage@sa.gov.au

www.environment.sa.gov.au

