UNIT NUMBER:

RECOVERY  AREA OF SERVICE: PACIFIC NORTHWEST

ORBIT (1845-1852)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Brigantine

Construction:  Built in Dorchester County, State of Maryland in 1845  (A.11/63 fo. 31)

Dimensions:  Number of passengers:  Number of crew:


HISTORY:

1852, January  Purchased by HBC agent in Honolulu for £520 ($2,500.00) including a cargo of spars, squared timber & other produce and made seaworthy by coppering (A.11/63 fo. 31 & 19 November;  D.7/1 fo. 250-250d)

1852, March  Sent to Queen Charlotte Islands with a party of 5 officers and 42 men under Chief Trader John F. Kennedy to hunt for gold (A.11/73 fo. 332d)

1854-1855  Made voyages to Hawaii with full cargoes which included 18,000 feet of lumber and 421,000 shingles (W. Kaye Lamb, pp. 51-52;  Spoehr).

1857, 19 May  Arrived at Victoria from the Sandwich Islands with a small quantity of sugar and molasses and was to be sent back the end of the month with a mixed cargo  (B.226/b/15 fo. 69d, 84;  B.226/b/16 fo. 86d)

1858, July  Fitted up as a guard ship to be stationed in the Fraser River, manned by a draft of 30 officers and men from the H.M.S. Satellite, to be charged to the public revenue, in order to control the issuing of gold licences to the miners  (B.226/b/15 fo. 69d, 84;  B.226/b/16 fo. 86d)

1859, 25 May  Sold to the Government but not yet paid for  (A.11/77 fo. 242d)

1859, 6 December  Mr. Lennard of Lennard & Green of Portland Oregon had recently purchased the brig from the Colony and requested that the Bill of Sale show it as Orbit to "facilitate his arrangements with the Collector of Customs".  She operated in the Sandwich Island and China trade under Capt. Erskine  (B.226/b/18 fos. 15-15d)

MASTERS:

1852  William Mitchell, Master; Charles E. Stuart, Supercargo; 1st Mate Harry Bailey Ella; 2nd Mate Robert W. Ellis (B.239/k/3 p. 39)

1853, 1854  William Mitchell, Master; Mate Robert W. Ellis (B.239/k/3 p. 60, 84)

1855-1858  William Mitchell, Master (Spoehr, p. 91)

BIBLIOGRAPHY:


PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTARY ART:

REFERENCES:  MICROFILM REELS:

A.11/63 fo. 31  London Inward Correspondence, 1853-1861  (158)
A.11/73 fo. 332d  London Inward Correspondence, 1851-1852  (164)
A.11/77 fo. 242d  London Inward Correspondence, 1859-1860  (173)
B.226/b/15 fos. 69d, 84  Correspondence Books, 1853-1863  (1M235)
B.226/b/16 fo. 86d  Correspondence Books, 1853-1863  (1M235)
B.226/b/18 fos. 15-15d  Correspondence Books, 1853-1863  (1M235)
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