

Basic Detail Report



Pegasus

Vessel number

HV000225

Date

1907

Primary Maker

Morrison & Sinclair

Description

PEGASUS is just over 20 metres long, carvel planked in New Zealand kauri with the unusual flared bow shape. It was originally steam powered. There was a cabin house on deck around the engine and boiler installation, with the helm position left exposed in front of the cabin. This was later enclosed. The arrangement, solid construction and wide foredeck allowed the craft to fulfill the dual purpose of a tug boat and powered lighter to carry and shift cargo from barges to ships and shore. A mast, winch and derrick were located directly in front of the helm position on the foredeck. A towing bollard, formed as an extension of the vertical post for the propeller aperture, was at the end of the deadwood keel. The internal structure consisted of floors and frames, with a large keelson section clamping the floors to the outer keel. The original plans still exist although PEGASUS's work as a tug and lighter is not well documented. Images of the boat at the end of its career as a workboat, at Harry Stride's ship breaking yard at Oxley Street, Rozelle Bay, Sydney, do exist. The two original plans for the 'Steam Tug and Lighter for the Colonial Oil Company, No 207' are blueprints held in the State Library of NSW's Morrison and Sinclair collection. Reeks was known to have designed very elegant craft, especially sailing yachts, launches and steam yachts and many of his designs had unorthodox features. PEGASUS reflects both these qualities with its graceful sheer, well proportioned superstructure and unusual bow shape. The Colonial Oil Company became the Vacuum Oil Company in 1908 and there is confusion about the original name of PEGASUS. In 1916 Vacuum Oil Company marketed products under the names LAUREL and PLUME and it is known that there were two vessels using these names. One of these had been SNOWFLAKE which was a name in use in 1914 and was attributed to one of the craft again in the 1980s. This craft called SNOWFLAKE was once considered for restoration but was later dismantled in the 1980s, and it remains unclear what the original name was for PEGASUS. Attracted by the appeal of its unusual hull shape, the current owner bought PEGASUS in the 1990s from Harry Stride who had bought the vessel in the 1980s. In 2008 it was being rebuilt with a new cabin over a modern diesel installation, with the mast, derrick and winch put back to their original position. It will then retain a very similar outward appearance to its original configuration and PEGASUS will become a private recreational vessel, just over 100 years from when it was launched as a tug and lighter.

Dimensions

Vessel Dimensions: 20.12 m x 17.07 m x 5.03 m x 1.98 m, 60 tonnes (66 ft x 56 ft x 16.5 ft x 6.5 ft, 60.96 tons)