

# Basic Detail Report

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**00031387**

**Title**

Fort Macquarie, Sydney

**Date**

c 1882

**Primary Maker**

Fred Hardy

**Medium**

Albumen print on paper

**Dimensions**

Overall: 508 x 408 mm, 0.018 kg

**Name**

Albumen print

**History**

Construction on Fort Macquarie began in 1817 and finished in early 1821 under the direction of Governor Lachlan Macquarie. The structure was built on Bennelong Point as a square castellated battlement and included several guns from First Fleet vessel HMS Supply. Fort Macquarie was one of a number of defensive structures built along Sydney Harbour in the 1800s, including Fort Denison and Middle Head, Georges Head, South Head and Bradley's Head batteries. The defences were built in response to a number of anticipated dangers that arose in the century after colonial settlement in Australia. As a strategically important harbour with a small population and growing wealth, Sydney was potentially vulnerable to foreign conquest. In 1853 fears of an impending invasion peaked when Britain and France declared war on Russia. Raids by the Russian Navy never eventuated, however defences were strengthened along Australia's coastline. Fort Macquarie was demolished to make way for a new electric tram shed that opened in 1902. The site continued to be known as 'Fort Macquarie' until 1959 when the tram shed was, in turn, torn down to be replaced by construction on the Sydney Opera House which was opened in 1973.