

Basic Detail Report



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Title

First fleet storeship BORROWDALE

Date

c 1786

Primary Maker

Francis Holman (1729 - c1790)

Medium

Oil on canvas

Dimensions

Overall: 728 x 1187 x 54 mm, 6.3 kg

Name

Painting

History

Between 1788 and 1868 over 168,000 men, women and children were transported from Britain to Australia as convicts on board more than 1,000 modified merchant ships which had been converted into convict transports. The first fleet of convict transports bound for the east coast of Australia set sail from Spithead on 13 May 1787 and was comprised of two warships HMS SIRIUS and HMS SUPPLY, three store ships BORROWDALE, FISHBURN and GOLDEN GROVE and six convict transports, ALEXANDER, FRIENDSHIP, LADY PENRHYN, SCARBOROUGH, PRINCE OF WALES and CHARLOTTE. The British Government did not build specialised convict transports but instead chartered suitable ships from private ship owners. The BORROWDALE was a 270-ton three masted square-rigged merchant ship built at Sunderland, England in 1785. It initially operated as a trading vessel for the British East India Company, however in 1787 the British Admiralty acquired the BORROWDALE and used it as a storeship for the First Fleet. BORROWDALE was one of three ships owned by Leighton and taken up by the Admiralty for storeships. It was moored on the River Thames before being sent to Australia.