



Drawing based on:

John Ewen, Jr., (American, active 1840s)

View of the ship Alert of New London

1845

Oil on canvas

Gift of Frederick W. Sheffield, 1947.191

This maritime scene shows the ship *Alert* departing for her second whaling voyage out of New London harbor. The *Alert* is portrayed twice here, from both the bow and the stern side. The *Alert* spent 34 years at sea and her voyages trace the shifts in 19th century commerce and trade. Built in Boston in 1828, the *Alert* first spent six years traversing the globe in the China trade, then nine years carrying animal hides from California to the tanneries of Boston, and finally, 19 years whaling out of New London.