# Gloucester struggles with dark legacy as Cromwell Street site becomes community pathway



The site of 25 Cromwell Street in Gloucester, once notorious as the home of Fred and Rose West, has been transformed into a pathway leading to St Michael's Square, a physical representation of both the community's history and its ongoing struggle to come to terms with the horror that transpired there. The estate was utterly destroyed to halt the lingering fascination of 'trophy hunters' – individuals who might seek to visit or exploit the site for morbid curiosity. However, for many residents, the destructive act seems to veil deeper, unresolved questions surrounding the legacy of the Wests' brutal activities.

According to local residents, the weight of the Wests' actions still hangs heavily over Gloucester, like a dark cloud formed by untold stories and lingering mysteries. Since the Netflix documentary "Fred and Rose West: A British Horror Story" aired, a renewed interest in the case has sparked whispers of unease and speculation within the community. An anonymous local expressed, “Things are slowly being pieced together, but it feels like the Cromwell Street case is like a large jigsaw puzzle...many pieces have been deliberately destroyed.” This sentiment echoes broader societal concerns about the nature of evil and the potential complicity of others.

The mention of underlying motives behind the demolition of the Cromwell Street property taps into a complex narrative that suggests Fred West may not have acted alone. Residents have raised suspicions about the involvement of additional individuals, possibly linked to a trafficking ring, which could further complicate the already harrowing story. One resident voiced these fears, noting, “There is some evidence to suggest that Fred was not operating on his own...some of these people may still walk free and be among our city to this day.” Such thoughts resonate with the findings from multiple documentaries that challenge the notion of closure regarding the Wests' heinous acts.

In attempting to unravel the past, recent investigations have uncovered previously unseen police recordings and testimonies from surviving relatives, substantially updating the historical narrative. The ITV documentary "Fred and Rose West: Reopened" highlighted the ongoing quest for truth by indicating that Gloucestershire Police had initiated excavations at a café previously associated with a missing person case. This fusion of old and new evidence adds to the piecemeal understanding of the atrocities committed and the true number of victims, prompting many in the community to seek clarity amidst confusion.

Documentaries and films assessing the Wests' legacy, such as "Fred & Rose West: The Real Story with Trevor McDonald," which revisits the grim events surrounding 25 Cromwell Street, underscore how public fascination melds with sensitivity toward the surviving victims and the community. These narratives offer insights into the relentless trauma inflicted by the Wests, reminding viewers that the past continues to shape current realities.

As Gloucester tries to heal and move forward, the discussions surrounding the Wests and their crimes reveal a community caught between the need to memorialise the victims and the horror that these notorieties evoke. Residents continue to grapple with their shared history, questioning what it means to truly put the past to rest when echoes of a tragic legacy remain so profound.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2056011/real-reason-fred-rose-west-house-destroyed> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://time.com/7285264/fred-and-rose-west-true-story-netflix/> - This article provides an in-depth look at the Netflix documentary 'Fred & Rose West: A British Horror Story,' which delves into the crimes of Fred and Rose West, one of Britain's most notorious serial killer couples. The piece discusses the documentary's exploration of the Wests' history, their victims, and the impact of their crimes on the community. It also highlights the use of newly discovered police recordings and interviews with surviving children and victims to shed light on the extent of the trauma caused by the Wests' actions.
3. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9821022/> - This IMDb page provides information about the 2019 TV movie 'Fred & Rose West: The Real Story with Trevor McDonald.' The film revisits the Cromwell Street murders, one of the most disturbing and chilling cases in British history, offering insights into the lives and crimes of Fred and Rose West. The page includes details about the cast, crew, and user reviews, providing a comprehensive overview of the film's content and reception.
4. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1813869/> - This IMDb page details the 2006 episode 'The Wests/House of Horrors' from the series 'Crimes That Shook the World.' The episode examines the events that transpired at 25 Cromwell Street in the UK, where Fred and Rose West tortured, raped, and murdered young women, including their own children. The page includes information about the cast, crew, and user reviews, offering insights into the episode's content and reception.
5. <https://www.itv.com/news/westcountry/2021-09-15/fred-and-rose-west-reopened-what-to-expect-from-itv-documentary> - This article discusses the ITV documentary 'Fred and Rose West: Reopened,' which explores the crimes of Fred and Rose West and raises questions about the number of undiscovered victims. The piece details how evidence uncovered by the documentary team led Gloucestershire Police to excavate a café in Gloucester, previously the workplace of Mary Bastholm, who disappeared in 1968. The article also provides background information on the Wests' crimes and the impact of the documentary's findings.
6. <https://www.documentarytube.com/videos/fred-rosemary-west-the-house-of-horrors/> - This page features the documentary 'Fred & Rosemary West: The House of Horrors,' which examines the crimes of Fred and Rose West, who between 1967 and 1987 tortured, raped, and murdered at least 11 young women and girls. The documentary focuses on the events at their residences in Gloucester, including 25 Cromwell Street, and provides insights into the couple's criminal activities and the investigation that led to their apprehension.
7. <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x96z7e0> - This Dailymotion video presents the first episode of the documentary series 'Fred and Rose West: A British Horror Story.' The episode offers an in-depth look at the real crime story of serial killers Fred and Rose West, revealing what took place at their house of horror, 25 Cromwell Street, and other addresses in Gloucester over the course of many years. It includes witness testimony from those closest to the victims and rarely seen archive footage of the Wests.