

## Rompney Castle PH, Wentloog Road, Rumney, Cardiff – Desk Assessment

We have been asked by a member of the public to consider listing the Rompney Castle PH in Rumney, Cardiff. The request has been made because of concerns over the future of the building. It is understood that the current owners (said to be Rompney Castle Estates) intend to submit an application to redevelop the site which will involve the total demolition of the building and its replacement with flats. A recent social media post by the previous tenants confirmed that the pub will not reopen, having been sold during lockdown, as the new owners have alternative plans. No planning application has been made to Cardiff Council to date.



*Photograph courtesy of Google street view - 2020*

Rumney is historically part of Monmouthshire and became part of the county borough of Cardiff in 1938. It is now both a district and community of Cardiff, located in the east of the city. It lies to the east of the Rhymney River and is predominantly a residential area, with shopping outlets and industrial and business estates nearby. There are currently only three listed buildings in Rumney – The Pottery (grade II – ref: 13761); Church of St Augustine (grade II\* - ref: 13672); and Quarry Hill House (grade II – ref: 14087).

The Rompney Castle was built c1871 and was originally called the Pear Tree. It is said that it was then bought in the late C19 by the American Consul based in Cardiff, at which time a mock Tudor façade was added and it was renamed as the Rompney Castle (apparently Rompney was the spelling of Rumney in the Tudor period). It is a two-storey stone building with brick detailing to the windows and doors on the first floor. The second floor retains the mock Tudor façade. It has a slate roof and retains what appear to be four of its original chimneys (old photos show that there were five at one time). It has a central 'turret' with asymmetrical wings. This long pub originally had two bars either side of a central lounge. The interior looks as though it has been extensively modernised over the years – photos below taken from the pub facebook page.



We know it was looked at – and rejected – in 2000 when the fieldwork for the community resurvey was undertaken from a photo taken at that time. Unfortunately, we do not have the reason why it wasn't listed. I have not had much success finding any more information about the building. There is nothing on Coflein or the HER and there is no mention of it in the Buildings of Wales for Glamorgan. It is not in a conservation area and Cardiff Council have confirmed that it is not on a list of buildings of local interest.

The Pear Tree was reputed to have been a particular favourite with pirates, who stowed their ill-gotten gains until they could make their getaway on the Rhymney. Local legend suggests that there were tunnels under the pub that ran to the river, which aided the pursuit of piracy. It is believed that these tunnels may still exist today.

The listing criteria does direct us to be more selective with buildings built after 1840, to ensure only the best examples of type are listed, which may be why this was rejected. I think its interest is at local rather than national level. In my opinion, this listing request does not offer any new evidence and, although it is more than 20 years since the survey, I do not think an inspection is necessary.

Cadw  
02 September 2021