DARK CASE PRODUCTIONS

CASE FILE 006

# FRED & ROSE WEST

Cromwell Street, hidden graves, and the investigation into a family of victims

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| CASE STATUS | FRED WEST — DIED BEFORE TRIAL / ROSE WEST — CONVICTED OF 10 MURDERS |
| LOCATION | 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester |
| PRIMARY INVESTIGATION | 1992–1995 |
| FRED WEST | Charged with 12 murders; died in custody before trial |
| ROSE WEST | Convicted of 10 murders |
| TRIAL COURT | Winson Green / Winchester-related proceedings; Crown Court trial |
| SENTENCE | Whole-life imprisonment |

## CASE SUMMARY

The investigation at 25 Cromwell Street in Gloucester uncovered the remains of multiple victims and exposed years of sexual violence and murder. Fred West died in custody before trial. Rose West was later convicted of ten murders.

## THE FIRST INVESTIGATION

In 1992 police investigating allegations of sexual abuse at the West family home began uncovering information about missing women and girls. Detective Constable Hazel Savage continued examining disappearances even after an initial prosecution against the Wests did not proceed.

The possibility that victims might be buried at Cromwell Street became a central line of inquiry.

## THE SEARCH OF CROMWELL STREET

On 24 February 1994 police obtained a warrant to search the property and garden. Human remains were found, including the remains of young women. The investigation expanded as officers examined the cellar, garden and other locations associated with the family.

Fred West eventually provided information about graves and bodies. Police recovered remains linked to several victims, while identification required extensive forensic and investigative work.

## THE INVESTIGATION

The West investigation relied on excavation, forensic identification, witness accounts and the reconstruction of the family's movements and relationships. The property itself became a major crime scene containing physical evidence accumulated over years.

Investigators also examined allegations of sexual assault and abuse. The prosecution case against Rose West used evidence from survivors and family members alongside the homicide evidence.

## FRED WEST

Fred West was charged with twelve counts of murder. He was remanded in custody but died by suicide in January 1995 before he could stand trial.

Because there was no criminal trial or verdict against Fred West, the offences alleged against him must be distinguished from Rose West's convictions.

## ROSE WEST

Rose West went on trial in 1995. The prosecution alleged that she participated in murders and sexual assaults over a prolonged period.

The jury convicted her of ten murders. She received a life sentence, later converted to a whole-life order. Her appeals were unsuccessful.

## CASE SIGNIFICANCE

The Cromwell Street investigation is a major example of a historic crime scene becoming a repository of evidence. It also demonstrates the importance of separating what was proved against one defendant from allegations made against another defendant who died before trial.

## SOURCE REGISTER

The following sources were used to ground this case file. Where a historical allegation is not a conviction, the distinction is stated in the text.

Crime+Investigation UK — Fred West crime file

https://www.crimeandinvestigation.co.uk/crime-files/fred-west

## EDITORIAL NOTE

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