

Copper chimneys at Georges / Courage Brewery, Bristol

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Despite the site of the former brewery being substantially cleared recently for development the block known as the 'Fermentation Building' still stands with the chimneys or roof ventilators in situ. It sits between two historic lanes that lead to the Floating Harbour (i.e. the old course of the River Avon that was made into a dock in the early 19th century). The 18th century rubble walls have been partially demolished and extended in brickwork. The building was taken into the brewery complex in the late 18th century having previously been used as part of Cross's distillery.

It is possible that the chimneys in the following photographs (and those that appeared on the covers of the last issue of *Brewery History*) serviced three brewing coppers, probably made by Mcmillan's of Scotland, which were

mounted on a Brew Deck. They fed the massive mash tun employed by Georges (apparently one of the biggest in its day - according to a late 1950s promotional film).

Two great Bristol brewery engineers were involved on site; with Llewellyn and James being responsible for relining the fermenting vessels with copper (prior to going over to stainless steel) and Adlams being responsible for miles of pipework.

It is intended to incorporate the remaining buildings on the site into a major residential/office/retail complex. Parts of the former brewery, a former Tramways Electricity Generating Station (home of the Courage Accounting Centre and Archive until recently) and a few survivals of an earlier sugar refinery are to be kept and 'stitched-in' to the new development.



Figure 1. The view is taken from what is now Castle Park, across the River Avon. One of the chimneys in the foreground was nearly lost to copper thieves. (All photographs by Stephen Morris).



Figure 2. Another view of the chimneys.



Figure 3. This view is taken from the Victoria Street side of the site, the river is beyond, Sir John Hawkins Lane (named after the brewer who bought the site in 1694) runs between the old buildings and the modern brick - Courage -facade.