

Vertshuset Røros

Monday, August 14 - World Heritage Site - Røros (M1)

Rammgården is the old name of the property of Vertshuset Røros. It has a long and dramatic history before it ended up as an inn, both for locals and visitors. The property has suffered fire, probably several times.

Already in the 17th century we know of one owner of the property. His name was Skott-Oluf. Later in the same century documents tell us that mining company's participant (shareholder) family Angell purchases the property, probably with the intention of placing money in a valuable property located in the heart of the mining town. Mayor Albert Angell, who also was an assessor in "Det nordenfjelske Bergamt", sold the property in 1702 to the mine registrar Peder Hiort senior. He had, like the Angell family, migrated from the Angel landscape in the county of Flensburg. He had served at Trondheim fortress, but was appointed mine registrar at the Røros Copperworks in 1689. His son, Peder Hiort junior, became one of the greatest directors of the mining company, a churchbuilder, and was laid to rest in his own burial chapel next to the church. Later merchant Andreas Berg became the owner of the property, and in 1844 Johan Natanael Ramm bought the property from John Abraham Floer. Ramm came to Røros from Vang as shop manager at Leigh-bua in 1842, but established his own shop in 1857. He erected the elegant main building, where the ground floor became a shop.

The first bank vault of Røros Sparebank

Røros Sparebank (savings bank) had started business at the Mine office in 1842, with the mine registrar as the first unpaid cashier. But as the business grew, the need for a bank vault and extended opening hours increased. This was found at merchant Ramm. Ramm then had to quit being a merchant to become a paid bank cashier. In 1863 a sign on the wall of Rammgården proclaimed that the bank was open from 9 to 12 in the morning and 2 to 5 in the afternoon. The cellar of Rammgården thus became the first bank vault of Røros Sparebank. In 1894 the bank moved to Bergmannsgata. When Ramm was appointed cashier, he rented the shop to Olava Sendresen, born Hånes (1825 - 1900). She became a legendary shopkeeper, and was nicknamed Ramm-Olava.

Fire! Fire!

Ramm's widow sold the property to Johs. N. With, but just a few years later, in 1899, he sold Rammgården and the property behind to Lars Petter Skjerdingsstad. He was to be the last merchant in Rammgården because in 1962 there was a catastrophic fire. All the backyard buildings as well as neighbouring houses were lost in the fire. The main house escaped damage due to the solid log constructions, but even today parts of the roof bearings are slightly blackened with soot. Lars Skjerdingsstad was an old man when this happened, and he chose not to rebuild the property. They moved to a smallholding they owned in Galåen.

From shop to inn

In 1967 the property was bought by the Trondheim firm Nord-Kro as. The major shareholders were hotel director Indseth and the two politicians Olina Storsand and Per Borten. The main building was refurbished, and appeared basically the same as it does today, with a restaurant on the ground floor, meeting/conference room on the first floor and a bar in the cellar. Jostein Øglend was hired as innkeeper. In 1980 Atle Ødegaard bought Rammgården, and with Tschudi Madsen as director for National Heritage in Norway, he managed to rebuild several of the old backyard buildings. Here Vertshuset got new possibilities with several accommodation units in the old backyard buildings. In 1988 Røros Turisthotell bought the property. They still run the business today.

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