



## PORTA DI CAMPO ROTONDO (CAMPO ROTONDO GATE)\*

\* lost building

You can find this point of interest in Cantù - Path 2 - Stage 1

Cantù - Path1 – Stage 2 also passes by this point of interest

### INFORMATION

**Location:** Porta di Campo Rotondo (Campo Rotondo Gate) was probably located where the accesses opposite to numbers 10b and 5b on via Ariberto da Intimiano are now.

### DESCRIPTION

Porta di Campo Rotondo (Campo Rotondo Gate), of medieval origin, opened into the eastern part of Cantù's town walls at the southern foot of the hill of San Paolo where there was a residential quarter of that name. It gave access to the road called *Strada de'Chiosi*, which, bifurcating before the premises of the *Domus Nova umiliata* (Humiliati House) of San Giorgio (St. George), led to the north-east towards Galliano, and to the east towards Vighizzolo.

References to the gate can be found in a number of fourteenth century documents which mention the Humiliati House of San Giorgio in Cantù and state, in fact, that the latter was located outside the Campo Rotondo Gate.

A deed by the *Deputazione Comunale* (a governing body similar to the Municipal Council) of Cantù, dated 29 August 1829, commissioned Enrico Vidario to take on the works to cover the Terrò stream, with the subsequent raising of the Cantù-Alzate road and the dismantling of the Campo Rotondo Gate, «*to be demolished as it obstructs the free passage of the road, it prevents free ventilation and threatens to go into ruins*»; the debris from the gate's demolition was to be used for the other works mentioned above. Attached to this deed, a document offers us a description of how the «*old gate of the former Castle of Cantù*» must have been like, and another document provides a drawing of it. The gate consisted of two abutments surmounted by a pointed arch with a *soprarco* (i.e. the part between the top of the arch and the roof) covered by curved tiles; six iron hinges, which had become rusty by the time, were fixed to the abutments to support the door. The external part, above the arch, carried the remains of a painting representing the coat of arms of the Pietrasanta family, who had been feudal lords of Cantù; above the coat of arms there had been a triangular wall which had already been demolished in 1808. «*The building to be pulled down is isolated, except for the left abutment, which serves as support and surround for Giovanni Tagliabue's house, and must not be demolished from the springer to the foundations, as it is suspected to be attached to the House with two of the hooks that are inserted there*».

Most likely, the width of the gate was 3.30 meters, the height of it at the top 4.80 metres, while the overall height of the building was 6.50 meters.

The works were completed by February 1831, as can be inferred from an accompanying letter, although the "Borgo Campo Rotondo" Gate was still marked on Carlo Montanara's map published in 1835 by don Carlo Annoni.