



The paradigm of a baroque house in Lorca is undoubtedly the House of Guevara, popularly known as the "House of the Columns". Conceived to exalt the family lineage and a superior social and economic status. Due to its architecture and the impressive collection of movable property it houses, it was declared an Asset of Cultural Interest in 2008, and is now museumized and available for tours. Inhabited continuously for 300 years since its construction by Juan de Guevara (1656-1710), it houses a complete collection of objects from the 17th and 20th centuries, including furniture, ceramic floors, paintings of notable interest, lamps, fans and a variety of household items. The House of Guevara was donated to the town of Lorca in 1971 by its last owner, Concepción Sandoval Moreno, Baroness of Petrés and Mayals (1893-1988).

COMPRA DE ENTRADAS
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El municipio de Lorca, es el segundo más extenso de España con 1.675 km² y se localiza en el extremo suroccidental de la Región de Murcia. La ciudad de Lorca, asentada sobre el valle del río Guadalentín y ruta de paso obligado entre Levante y Andalucía, es un punto de encuentro desde hace siglos. Lorca es patrimonio cultural y de naturaleza; todo un abanico de espacios monumentales, museísticos y ambientales que el visitante podrá descubrir desde el Centro de Visitantes, en el antiguo Convento de la Merced, o desde la Oficina de Turismo localizada en la monumental Plaza de España. Visitar Lorca es vivir, sentir y descubrir de primera mano un territorio sorprendente y atractivo.

The municipality of Lorca is the second largest one in Spain with a total land area of 1.675 km². It is located in the south-western extreme corner of the Region of Murcia. The city of Lorca, settled on the valley of the Guadalentín River and placed in the route between Levante and Andalucía, has been a meeting point for centuries. Lorca is a natural and cultural heritage. It is, ultimately, a complete palette of monumental, environmental and museum sites that the visitor will discover either from the Visitor Centre in the former Convent of La Merced or the Tourist Office located in the monumental Plaza de España.



CONSTRUCCIÓN DE LA CASA

El largo proceso de construcción del edificio, iniciado por el letrado Juan de Guevara y su hijo Gómez de Guevara, lo concluiría Juan de Guevara en 1705, mayorazgo del linaje, hidalgo notorio y caballero de la Orden de Santiago. Cuando en 1672 muere Gómez de Guevara, la estructura cuadrada del edificio y una sencilla fachada de piedra se hallaban en pie, quedando la obra incompleta al faltar el patio columnado y la escalera principal de cantería. En 1690, al acceder Juan de Guevara a los bienes del mayorazgo, se retomó el proyecto de casa con patio central porticado que había quedado interrumpido a la muerte de su padre. En 1691 se concluía la escalera principal, en 1694 la portada y el patio lo labraría Pedro Sánchez Fortún en 1705. Escalera y fachada se atribuyen a los canteros oriolanos Caro, Villanueva y Sánchez Eslava.



VIA TRIUNFAL DEL APELLIDO GUEVARA

La trama simbólica desplegada en la decoración de portada, patio y escalera principal de la Casa ha sido calificada como una "vía triumphalis". La portada contiene dos niveles de significación relacionados entre sí. En la parte inferior aparecen elementos como la garza, los ángeles trompeteros y aquellos otros que

luchan contra dos monstruos, que tienen un claro simbolismo moralizante referido a la salvaguarda que siempre se ha de observar con respecto al honor y la fama de la persona, que se han de ver incrementadas mediante la virtud y el valor personal. Esas cualidades, exigidas a los caballeros de la Orden de Santiago, sirven de soporte para la representación familiar que se hace en el nivel superior mediante escudos que suponen un canto a las ejecutorias de hidalgía de la familia del caballero santiaguista, cobrando mayor relevancia la representación central del apellido de los Guevara. También aparecen los de García de Alcaraz y los de su mujer, cumpliendo así con otra exigencia para el ingreso en la Orden: ser hidalgos al menos por los cuatro primeros apellidos, además de ser probado cristiano viejo. Todo lo expuesto se resume en el lema latino que se incorporó al escudo central "POTIUS MORI QUAM FOEDARI" (Es preferible morir a ser mancillado/deshonrado). La exaltación del linaje continúa en el patio con la aparición en las enjutas de los arcos del escudo de la Orden de Santiago junto con el de Guevara, ahora circundado de laurel, y viene a finalizar bajo el retrato ecuestre de don Juan existente en la escalera, donde de nuevo encontraremos el escudo familiar cruzado por la cruz de Santiago. La Inmaculada Concepción colocada junto al retrato de don Juan, se situó allí en recuerdo de la defensa que se comprometían a hacer los caballeros santiaguistas de la creencia piadosa que sería declarada dogma en el siglo XIX.

BOTICA SALA JUST

En el propio patio de la Casa quedó instalada en 2019 la interesante botica de José Sala Just. Inaugurada en 1896 junto al Ayuntamiento, fue regentada por el farmacéutico y sobresaliente personaje de la cultura local José Sala Just, hijo del fundador del establecimiento, entre 1927 y 1991. Junto al mobiliario de estilo ecléctico del tallista local Juan Campos Sáez, se encuentra un completo botarrén de la fábrica catalana de Giralt así como todo tipo de útiles propios del oficio y antiguos productos con su embalaje y anuncios originales.



CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOUSE

The long process of construction of the building, initiated by the lawyer Juan de Guevara and his son Gómez de Guevara, was completed by Juan de Guevara in 1705, primogeniture of the lineage, notorious nobleman and knight of the Order of Santiago. When Gómez de Guevara died in 1672, the square structure of the building and a simple stone facade were still standing, leaving the work incomplete as the colonnade courtyard and the main stone staircase were missing. In 1690, when Juan de Guevara gained access to the property of the primogeniture, the project of a house with a porticoed central courtyard was resumed, which had been interrupted after the death of his father. In 1691 the main staircase was completed, in 1694 the facade and the courtyard were carved by Pedro Sánchez Fortún in 1705. The staircase and facade are attributed to the Oriolano stoneworkers Caro, Villanueva and Sánchez Eslava.

The House of Guevara is a free building, designed in height with two floors and a gallery of brick arches at the top that lightens the heaviness produced by its cubic shape. The facade was made using as a model the Baroque altarpieces with Solomon columns in their two bodies, which proliferated in the area of the Levant following purely Italian schemes. The religious motifs have been replaced here by the heraldic ones: the coat of arms of Guevara in the central part, flanked by two others of García de Alcaraz, and on the upper part, on both sides of the cross of Santiago, the surnames Pérez de Meca and Ponce de León belonging to the lineage of the wife of Juan de Guevara.

VIA TRIUMPHAL OF THE SURNAME GUEVARA

The symbolic plot unfolded in the decoration of the facade, courtyard and main staircase of the House has been

described as a "via triumphalis". The facade contains two levels of meaning related to each other. At the bottom appear elements such as the heron, the trumpeters angels and those others who fight against two monsters, which have a clear moralizing symbolism referring to the safeguard that must always be observed with respect to the honour and fame of the person, which must be increased by virtue and personal courage. These qualities, required of the knights of the Order of Santiago, serve as a support for the family representation that is made at the higher level through coat of arms that presuppose a chant to the executionary of the noble family of the knight of Santiago, acquiring greater relevance the central representation of the surname of the Guevara. The surname of García de Alcaraz and his wife also appear, thus fulfilling another requirement for entry into the Order of Santiago: to be a nobleman by at least the first four surnames, in addition to being a proven old Christian. All this is summarized in the Latin motto that was incorporated into the central coat of arms "POTIUS MORI QUAM FOEDARI" (It is preferable to die to be defiled/disgraced). The exaltation of the lineage continues in the courtyard with the appearance on the arches of the coat of arms of the Order of Santiago along with that of Guevara, now surrounded by laurel, and comes to an end under the equestrian portrait of don Juan existing on the main staircase, where it is found the family coat of arms crossed by the cross of Santiago. The painting of the Immaculate Conception placed next to the portrait of don Juan, was placed there in memory of the defence that the knights of Santiago committed themselves to make of the pious belief that would be declared dogma already in the 19th century.

OLD PHARMACY SALA JUST

In the courtyard of the House was installed in 2019 the interesting old pharmacy of José Sala Just. Inaugurated in 1896, next to the City Hall, it was run by the pharmacist and outstanding figure of local culture José Sala Just, son of the founder of the establishment, from 1927 to 1991. Next to the eclectic furniture of the local sculptor Juan Campos Sáez, there is a complete set of pottery of the Catalan factory of Giralt as well as all kinds of utensils of the trade and old products with their original packaging and advertisements.

