

HELECHOSA DE LOS MONTES CHURF OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE ALTAGRACIA HELECHOSA DE LOS MONTES (BADAJOZ)

DESCRIPTION

The Church of Nuestra Señora de Altagracia constitutes the principal religious temple of Helechosa de los Montes and one of the town's most representative heritage elements. Located near the Plaza Mayor, it is a modestly proportioned construction built in stone and brick, considered one of the finest examples of rural Mudéjar architecture in the region.

The building stands out for its constructive simplicity and for the preservation of historical elements of notable interest, especially its Mudéjar wooden roof and various interior elements belonging to different historical periods.

The church features a single nave and marked exterior sobriety, integrating fully into the traditional architecture of the urban center of Helechosa de los Montes.

HISTORY

The church originated in the 14th century, although it preserves elements and renovations corresponding mainly to the 16th century and later periods.

The construction follows models of rural religious architecture developed within the Extremaduran Mudéjar tradition, using stone and brick as fundamental materials. Various later interventions partially modified the building, while maintaining much of its original structure.

During the 16th century, important works were carried out on the church, including the construction or renovation of the Mudéjar wooden roof and the enlargement of the sacristy.

Decorative and liturgical elements from different periods were also incorporated, such as the 16th-century altarpiece, Renaissance pieces, and works carried out during the 18th century, including a coffered ceiling dated 1733.

HISTORICAL-ARTISTIC DESCRIPTION

The church consists of a single nave divided into four sections by pointed arches. The interior preserves an original 16th-century gabled wooden roof supported by beams decorated with angel wing motifs.

The main portal features a semicircular arch framed by an alfiz, a characteristic element of the Mudéjar tradition.

The tower constitutes one of the building's most singular elements, showing two clearly differentiated construction phases. The lower part is made of quartzite stone with brick-framed windows, while the upper section is entirely built in exposed brick and opened through spaces intended for the bells.

Inside, various artistic and liturgical elements stand out, including a 16th-century altarpiece, a Renaissance-style piece located on the altar, the coffered ceiling dated 1733, a lunette vault, and the baptismal chapel covered by a groin vault.

Particularly significant is the granite baptismal font preserved within the church.

The building has been considered one of the smallest rural medieval churches in the region, a circumstance that reinforces its uniqueness within the religious heritage of La Siberia extremeña.

RELEVANT FIGURES RELATED TO THE POI

The church is historically linked to the different parish communities and generations of residents of Helechosa de los Montes who have maintained the worship and preservation of the building throughout the centuries.

Likewise, the building is associated with the master builders and Mudéjar craftsmen responsible for the different construction and decorative phases developed between the 14th and 18th centuries.

MOVABLE HERITAGE

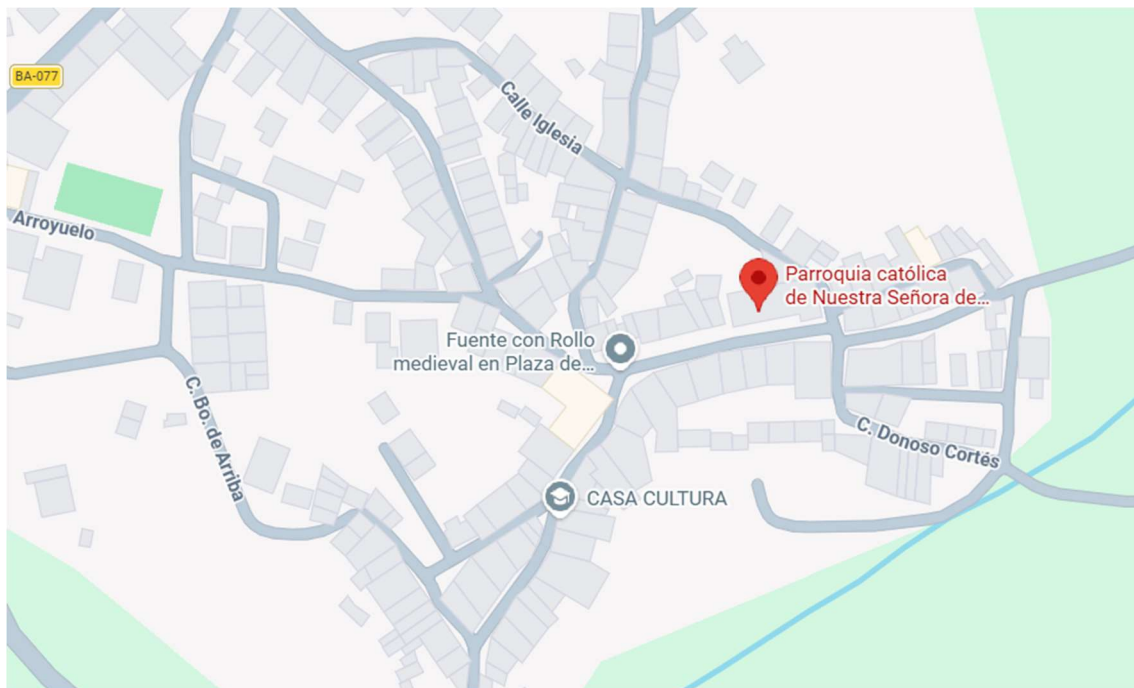
Among the movable heritage and artistic elements preserved inside are the 16th-century altarpiece, a Renaissance-style piece located on the altar, the granite baptismal font, and various decorative elements associated with the Mudéjar roof and the 18th-century coffered ceiling.

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

The Church of Nuestra Señora de Altagracia constitutes one of the principal religious and symbolic spaces of Helechosa de los Montes, maintaining a strong connection with the town's liturgical celebrations, patron festivities, and religious traditions.

The church continues to be a fundamental reference point for the municipality's historical, cultural, and spiritual identity.

LOCATION MAP



GRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION



View of the church, showing a model of rural religious architecture developed within the Extremaduran Mudéjar tradition. © ARZOBISPADO DE TOLEDO. TOLEDO. ESPAÑA



Detail of a dove sculpted on the church façade.
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The tower constitutes one of the building's singular elements and shows two differentiated construction phases.



Detail of the church interior. © ARZOBISPADO DE TOLEDO. TOLEDO. ESPAÑA



View of the church showing the wooden ceiling. © ARZOBISPADO DE TOLEDO. TOLEDO. ESPAÑA