

VALDECABALLEROS PLAZA MAYOR: “EL RELOJ” BUILDING

DESCRIPTION

The building known as “El Reloj” is located in the Plaza Mayor of Valdecaballeros, constituting one of the most distinctive elements of the town’s urban landscape. It is a vertical construction, tower-shaped in form, which stands out visually within the ensemble of popular architecture that defines the urban center.

Located in the heart of the municipality, this building is integrated into the town’s main public space, where the social, administrative, and festive life of the community converges, functioning as a landmark for both residents and visitors.

HISTORY

The building dates from the late 19th century, specifically from 1886, a period during which many towns incorporated this type of construction as symbols of modernity and urban organization. According to the inscription appearing on the front wall of the building, it corresponds to the reigns of Alfonso XII and Alfonso XIII. King Alfonso XII reigned between 1874 and 1885, and his posthumous son, Alfonso XIII, was proclaimed king at birth in 1886, although his effective reign began in 1902 following the regency of his mother.

The inscription on the building reads as follows:

“REIGNS OF ALFONSO XII AND XIII. PRESIDENT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL DON JOSÉ ANTONIO GONZÁLEZ. BUILT BY JUAN PASTOR. MDCCCLXXXVI.”

Its function was linked to the regulation of collective time, acting as an element that organized daily life through the clock it houses, at a time when such devices were scarce and highly valued by the community.

HISTORICAL AND ARTISTIC DESCRIPTION

“El Reloj” features a sober and functional tower-like structure, in keeping with the traditional architecture of the locality. Its verticality contrasts with the lower surrounding buildings, reinforcing its role as a visual landmark within the Plaza Mayor.

It lacks prominent ornamentation, responding more to practical than decorative criteria, although this very simplicity makes it a representative element of popular civil

architecture from the late 19th century in rural settings. The building blends harmoniously into an urban ensemble characterized by single-story houses and traditional architecture, contributing to the visual identity of the public space.

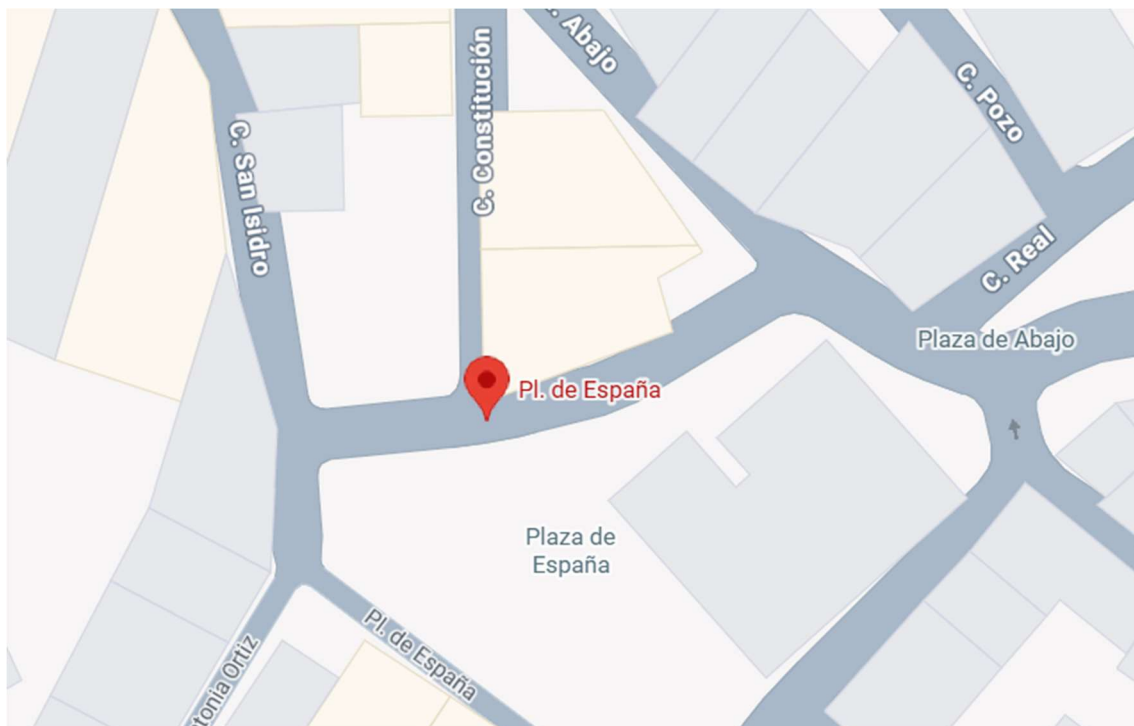
MOVABLE HERITAGE

The main movable element associated with the building is the clock mechanism, a key piece of its original functionality, representing an example of technology applied to the public sphere in the rural context of the late 19th century.

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

“El Reloj” forms part of the collective imagination of Valdecaballeros as a symbol of the municipality’s daily rhythm. Its presence in the Plaza Mayor directly links it to the celebration of festivals, gatherings, and social events, acting as a spatial and temporal reference point in community life. Its historical function as a timekeeper reinforces its value as an identity element linked to traditional social organization.

LOCATION MAP



GRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION



Plaza de España, with the fountain in the foreground and “El Reloj” in the background.



Fountain in Plaza de España in Valdecaballeros.



Inscription on the front wall of "El Reloj".



Tower showing one clock on the front and another on the side wall.