

Inside the mansion, the services areas and the staircase to the billiard room for those servants who directly attended the Marquises were located on the ground floor. The kitchen, laundry and the main service staircase for servants who took care of cleaning, food and childcare services were also located here. In 1985 a staircase was built from the ground floor to the main hall in order to rent the mansion in summer to offset the cost of maintaining the home.

The main hall is located on the first floor, where the Marquises would meet to debate, play games or have a drink. The current billiard room was the main dining room, where you can see a hidden door in the wall that the servants used to serve the diners. The winter hall replaced a bedroom and a dining room was located in the back for the children, who ate separately from the adults under the care of the servants.

The second floor and the attic are currently bedrooms, six on the second floor and four in the attic, as well as five bathrooms on the second floor and two in the attic. All except for one on the second floor (the only one that opens to the hall) were added in 1985 when the house was rented to summer vacationers in an attempt to keep the house in the family.

At least 45 different species of native and foreign plants, both trees and bushes, are found in the garden, along with a former tennis court to the right of the entrance and the former pool in the back on the left, where today visitors will find a pond (next to the bonsais). The area where we today have the bowling alley was a vegetable garden and fruit orchard that supplied food for the mansion.

Palacio de los Marqueses de Albaicin

(Marquises of Albaicin Mansion)

Calle Los Pinares (municipal estate)

Public Access to gardens.

Guided visits to the interior and exterior of the mansion.

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Palacio de los Marqueses de Albaicin



Palacio de los Marqueses de Albaicin

(Marquises of Albaicin Mansion)

The Palacio de los Marqueses de Albaicin (Marquises of Albaicin Mansion) is a collection of buildings with a botanical garden that was declared a Cultural Heritage Site by the Spanish government in 1992. It was turned over to the municipality in 1997 to return it to its splendour as the Casa de Cultura de Noja (Noja Culture Centre).

The original building was a sixteenth-century ancestral home that was converted into a Neo-Renaissance mansion and purchased by Ms. Obdulia Bonifaz in the late-nineteenth century. Bonifaz spent her summer holidays at the mansion and the property was later passed on to her daughter and son-in-law, the Marquises of Albaicin.

The crest on the façade is from the Bonifaz family; since Ms. Obdulia Bonifaz purchased and renovated the property, it was thus her crest (and not that of her husband, because Bonifaz bought the home after she was widowed) that decorated the home, while the crests on the formal entrance and on the outside of the chapel are from the Marquises of Albaicin.



The ground floor, which was always used for service purposes, was windowless and without a door that opened to the main façade. It was dominated by a very ornate,

Baroque-style double staircase which led to the first floor and a large patio on the second floor that covered this staircase and connected in the back to a building that housed the bedrooms.



After a large storm in 1914 Ms. Obdulia contracted Cantabrian architect Leonardo Rucabado Gómez to remodel the house. He completed the work in 1916 and redesigned the building as a large mountain manor house, applying a regional architectural style that he pioneered. He thus added a structure on the second floor that consisted of a solarium with two buttresses, the crest and the tower. Rucabado also built the service buildings (the Marquises opened a small chocolate factory) and the guards' quarters at the end of the road, the guest home (exhibition and conference hall) and the chapel.

The original chapel was a two-storey building, as the choir attests, but it was gutted to make it taller and to make room for the altarpiece with the Immaculate Virgin and the stained-glass windows of Saint Peter (right) and Saint Joseph (left). The icons were also installed along with the standard with the Albaicin crest, the alabaster Christ, and the personalised pews. The Marquises requested religious services from the village priest, who received payment for holding two separate services, one for the family and another for the servants.

