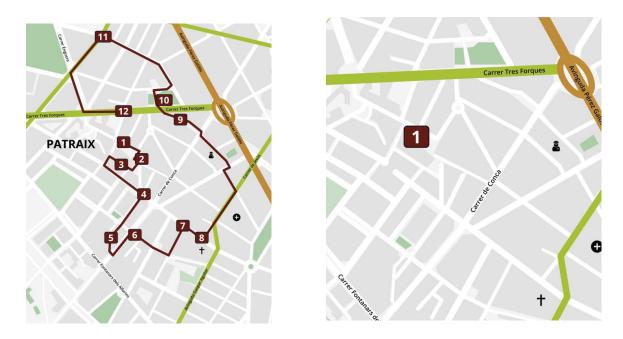
## 1. Patraix Square



In the "Llibre del Repartiment" (book of partitioning, used during the XIII century to register the donation pledges of the properties once the conquest of València was over) the farmhouses of Petraer, precedent of Patraix, are mentioned. King James the first donated these to his scribe Guillem Escrivá in reward for his help in the conquest of València.

In this christian period the public space of the Main Square was designed, with its triangular shape which remains today. The Manor of Patraix passed from the Escrivá family to the Crown in 1567 and was later sold, in 1769, to the Marqués de Elche, who in turn sold it to the Marqués de Cruilles, whose descendants won the title of Baron of Patraix, after king Charles III elevated the rank of nobility of Patraix from lordship to barony. Both titles give their names to streets in the neighbourhood.

On the east side of the square, the Baron built a sumptuous palace, which is no longer there today. Its main door opened onto a courtyard and to its left there was a gothic style door with columns and capitals that led to the stable. A stone staircase led up to the main floor where the different rooms could be found. The main living room was decorated with XV and XVI century tiles.

The palace, which was temporarily set up as a hospital to receive plague patients in 1647, ceased to be inhabited at the beginning of the XX century. Mid-century, due to its dilapidated condition, it was demolished and a residential building was built on the site.

Following the abolition of the manors (1811) and the promulgation of the Constitution in the Courts of Cadiz (1812) giving the option to form constitutional town councils in each location, village or town, Patraix was declared an

independent municipality in 1816, until 1870 when it again requested annexation to the city of València. During the XIX century, it had around 500 inhabitants.

The Main Square, called Square of the Consitution during this period, remained the organisational and leisure centre of the place. In the centre there was a well for the neighbours to use, in charge of which was a person to clean it.

Of the traditional buildings that once surrounded the square on all its façades, today only those on the south side remain.

The unique location of the square, located below the level of the surrounding fields, always created problems for the houses in it. In fact, in some of the square's old houses, there are some steps down to access the homes. It is claimed that close to the square there was a brick factory which used the soil in the square to make them, although the veracity of these claims has never been confirmed.

On number 8, the headquarters of the Radical Republican Party were located. Later, the National School was located in this building.

Among the buildings that still remain, number 12 stands out beacuse of its history: it was the headquarters of the town hall whilst Patraix was an independent municipality.

Once Patraix became part of the city of València again, it became the Autonomous Radical Republican Casino, one of the city's many casinos. The writer and politician Vicente Blasco Ibáñez attended the extraordinary meeting that was held there on the 13th of March 1903, and from its balcony rallied a crowd of neighbours who had gathered in the square. It is known that Blasco, who was deeply anti-clerical, addressed part of the speech to the catholic church, pointing at the parish church located on the other side of the square, saying "that church must be turned into an onion warehouse". More recently, the building has been the headquarters of the Patraix Neighbourhood Association and the House of Uruguay in València.

One of the most important souces of traditional culture is the valencian *cant d'estil*, which often dresses up its melodies with old verses, work of popular poets. Dolores Campos, purebred Patraix local and neighbourhood singer, sings a little song of unknown origin that speaks perfectly of the charms of the old village:

"Cavallers, soc de Patraix, d'esta terra llevantina. Porte l'aroma i la grana del clavell i rosa fina, que és la millor flor d'Espanya." "Gentlemen, I am from Patraix, this Levantine land. I carry the scent and the scarlet of the carnation and fine rose which is the best flower of Spain"

## **General Information**

Address: Patraix Square.

## Accesibility

Access: Accessible square, without steps or stairs.

**Parking:** Parking space reserved for persons with reduced mobility, located at the junction of Turis Street and Patraix Square with an accessible itinerary from the square, with horizontal and vertical signage.