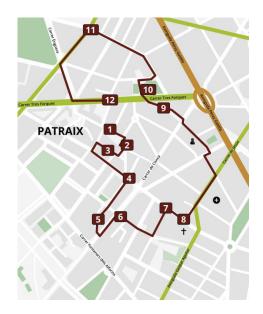
7. Convent of Jesús





Convento de Jesús (or Convent of Jesus), declared Asset of Local Significance, includes a group of spaces and buildings, located next to Beato Nicolás Factor Street and Gaspar Aguilar Avenue. In the 16.000 m2 plot, on the one hand, there is the original core of the convent, consisting on the church (which is described in this route on a different index card) and the rooms of the old convent, located around a cloister.

The Franciscan convent was founded by Matteo di Agrigento (fray Mateu, to whom a street is dedicated in the neighbourhood) with the support of King Alfonso III the Magnanimous and his wife, Queen Mary, in 1428.

It was located in a garden belonging to Berenguer Minguet, next to the location where the chapel of San Cristóbal was. Nicolás Factor (1520-1583) was ordained a priest and developed his ecclesiastical career there, he also made music and painted and was beatified by the pope Pio VI in 1786.

The street that runs along the main façade of the former convent is named after him.

In 1838, due to the disentailment promoted by Mendizábal, the convent was acquired by Santiago Dupuy, (who 6 years before had bought La Battifora from Giovanni Battista Battifora: please see index card 5). Dupuy would sell the convent to Gaspar Dotrés 4 years later.

In the convent's purchasing process, Santiago Dupuy pressured for a free hand-over, alledging the benefits he had provided to the national industry by installing in La Battifora in 1837 the first steam engine applied to the silk

industry. He demanded a second valuation of the site and he was allowed to pay 1,5% of the census, instead of the regular 3%.

Dupuy, in the disintailment process, also acquired the convents of Socorro (now the School Jesús y María) and San Felipe, located at the junction of Guillem de Castro and Quart streets.

Despite there being a better offer from Miguel Arbués, who had offered to pay the estimated sum in cash and recognised a 3% census of the amount valued for the site (whilst Dupuy would pay later and only 2% of the census), it was awarded also to Dupuy. Both sites where sold shortly after, as he did with Jesús; in this case to José Arana, from Madrid.

Once the Jesús Convent was sold, the new owner used the factory as a silk spinning mil through the Company Dotrés, Clavé y Fabra.

It would later be acquired by the Provincial Council of València, which in 1867 destined it to house the historic asylum founded by father Joan Gilabert Jofré en 1409, which was located until that moment in the building of the old General Hospital.

This hospital was founded by the religious man after witnessing the assault of a mentally ill man and became the world's first psychiatric facility at the time.

On June 16th 1989, the Provincial Council of València closed definitively the Patraix- Jesús asylum. The last patients were moved a few days prior to the Bétera asylum, opened in 1973, and to other centers.

Today, the group of buildings is used as the Provincial Council Archives, a health centre, the municipal council of Patraix and a public school.

As the Jesús Convent was used many years as a psychiatric facility, there are popular sayings in València that make reference to this fact: such as "anar camí de Jesús" (to be on your way to Jesús), applied to a person who seems to have lost their mind.

This other saying suggests that the bad life could be a straight road to loosing one's mind, and that road could only lead to Jesús, to the asylum:

"El que dels amics es fia, de dones, vi i aiguardent, pararà en un hospital o en Jesús, que és el mateix".

("He who trusts his friends,

Women, wine or liquor,

Will end up in hospital,

Or in Jesús, which is the same").

General information

Address: Beato Nicolas Factor 1.

Accesibility

Access: Lowered pavement for access. Unobstructed access to the indoor

park.

Parking: Parking space reserved for persons with reduced mobility on Av.

Gaspar Aguilar 7.