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Canals House




MIHIT
MUSEU
D'HISTÒRIA
DE TARRAGONA

TARRAGONA
ES CONNECTA
AMB LA CULTURA



PROPERTY OF CULTURAL INTEREST

Canals House



The Canals House is located in the city's old town, known as the Part Alta (uptown). Archaeological investigations have documented that there was an important building from the XV century in the same place, with at least two floors and built over large pointed arcs, reformed in the XVI century. This building was destroyed during the War of the Segadors (Catalan Revolt)(1640-1652). The building today probably dates back to the XVIII century, as the structure is similar to the stately homes of those times.

The first reference to the Canals family as owners of the property is related to the reforms carried out in the houses 1 to 11 in Granada Street in order to put up King Charles IV, his wife M. Lluïsa and his court, from 11th to 15th November 1802, for the inauguration of the port of Tarragona. The east wall of the house opens up to the Roman Wall and from the balconies the monarchy enjoyed the fantastic sea views and the festivities carried out in their honour.

The Canals, originally from Reus, had noble titles and got related through marriage to other distinguished families in the city, like Joaquim Canals, married to M. Antònia de Castellarnau in 1852. The building was at its maximum splendour at this time and most of the furniture dates back to this period. The ballroom has neo-classical decoration on the walls and ceiling. It is worth pointing out the mirrors and Elizabethan pews,

as well as the three chandeliers from the mid XIX century. The extremes of the lounge are dominated by a painting of M. Antònia de Castellarnau and another of Joaquim Canals. The family oratory is covered by a copula and is decorated with family shields and the Maltese Cross, as Joaquim Canals was a Knight of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. The bedrooms have an anti-chamber and an alcove, separated by neo-classical style arcs. The furniture that can be seen in the bedrooms, living rooms and dining room date back to between the XVIII and the XX centuries, with examples of neo baroque, Lluís XV, neoclassic, Alfonso or Elizabethan styles. The romantic garden with its rocky fountain is not near the street, it is on the noble floor.

The house was used by the Canals family up to the last third of the XX century. In 1992 it was acquired by the Catalan Government that finally gave it over to the Tarragona City Council, that opened it up to the public as a museum in 2006.

