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# El Pallol vault





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# El Pallol vault



The Pallol vault formed part of the constructions on the western side of the great square of the government of the Roman Forum of Tarraco. In Roman times, the vault must have been a long gallery that circled behind the portico and supported a second floor. However, at this time we do not know what it was for or what it was used for up until the sixteenth century. The door and the rose window of the current interior façade, at first glance, seem to belong to a medieval era proceeding the fifteenth century, when the vault might have been used as a church.

The Pallol square of modern times has been documented, since the sixteenth century, with the name the plain of Sant Feliu, even though we know that it already existed before this date. The archaeological and documentary data show that the square, at that time, was smaller than it is now and that it was entered through a different location. It was probably accessed from three streets: from the current Cavallers street, from the slope of the Roser, through the conserved Roman gate and from a street that no longer exists today, that connected the square with the plain of Sant Miquel. The last street must have run parallel to the enclosing wall of the portico, and probably disappeared in the mid-fifteenth century.

In 1462, due to the instability of the monarchy, the Dominican fathers moved their convent from the area

of the current Camp de Mart to the inner part of the city. From that moment, the vault became a church and the space attached to the vault became a convent.

In 1522, the Dominicans moved their convent outside the city walls again and the vault was acquired by the city. The current name of the square resulted from the fact that during the second half of the sixteenth century, the municipality installed the pallol (store) or wheat store and flour-weighing house here. The pallol was a large municipal grain tank and exercised the duties of a public house for the buying and selling of it.

Around 1646 the municipality returned the vault to the Dominicans, who used it as a church again until 1693, when they left to move into their new convent built in Font Square. From this moment, the municipality owned the vault again, which, in 1780, they used as a store for firewood and, years later, as a warehouse for the municipal brigade. The structures attached to the vault and the top part of it probably remained vacant until 1696, when the blessed of St. Dominic established themselves in the old convent of Dominicans. Currently the vault is municipal property and a model of Tarraco from the second century AD is exhibited there.

