

ca. 1596 | PLATFORM OF THE CITY OF GRANADA
AS FAR AS MONTE SACRO DE
VALPARAISO. ENGRAVING: ALBERTO
FERNÁNDEZ

Casa del Chapiz

NATIONAL MONUMENT (14th – 16th centuries)

Casa del Chapiz occupies a large area on the corner between Cuesta del Chapiz and Camino del Sacromonte, at the southeastern end of the former suburban quarter of Albaicín, once known as *Rabaḍ al-bayḍā'* or Barrio de la Blanca. It is said that the property was part of an old Nasrid *almunia* (aristocratic country estate), made up of four irrigation farming terraces with a mansion standing on the highest one.

Written sources preserved from 1525 onwards indicate that the house used to be inhabited by the Morisco family of Hernán López el Ferí but by then, all that was left of the property was the upper terrace. It was made up of two different patios or enclosed residential areas that were accessed through

“... it is the largest and most important Morisco house in Granada.”

the same *adarve* (dead-end alley) and shared a common bay. After the death of Hernán López el Ferí in 1557, the northern area was used as a residence for his children, while the southern area was inherited by his son-in-law, Lorenzo el Chapiz, after whom the whole complex is named.

After the uprising and expulsion of the Morisco population from the Kingdom of Granada, the property was confiscated in 1571 by the Castilian Crown and handed over to the Patronato de Salazar, which was in charge of it until the mid-nineteenth century.

During this period, the dwellings were leased out to different people and institutions, including the Royal Company of Factories and Commerce of Granada, using them to provide shelter to poor families with the result that its conservation was neglected.

Nonetheless, its noticeable artistic value, emphasised by romantic travellers who arrived in Granada, described in the city's art guides and studied by art historians, stirred up the interest in its conservation, leading it to be declared an Architectural and Artistic Monument in 1919. Ten years later, the building was bought by the state, which purchased the orchard the following year.



PHOTO: M. TORRES MOLINA | NORTHERN PATIO, 1929



NORTHERN PATIO, current state

The Restoration

LEOPOLDO TORRES BALBÁS

»»» The restoration of Casa del Chapiz, which was undertaken between 1929 and 1932 by Leopoldo Torres Balbás, curator architect of the Alhambra and of the 6th Monumental Zone, guaranteed the survival of the building, which was embellished with newly designed ample gardens. This meant that in 1932, the recently created Escuela de Estudios Árabes (School of Arabic Studies) was able to use the premises to set up its main office. The sunken walls were remade, while the ones in ruins were underpinned and strengthened; the roof tiles and frames were erected; some of the porticoes and galleries were rebuilt; the ponds in the patio were recovered; and vegetation was used to recreate the bays that had disappeared.

The Northern Patio ^A

»»» THE HOUSE OF HERNÁN LÓPEZ EL FERÍ

The Northern Patio has the typological, constructive and decorative characteristics common to all Morisco houses in Granada. It is almost rectangular (10.4 x 5.55 x 6.15 m) with a small central pond and a hallway or *zaguán* entrance. Its functional organisation follows Andalusí tradition with wooden galleries on all four sides providing access to all the rooms on the upper floor. These are supported by brick pillars in the corners and large white marble columns standing halfway along the longest sides of the patio. Underneath the room in the northern bay there is an *aljibe* or cistern that was used to collect water from the irrigation canal Acequia de Aynadamar, used for human consumption and to water the orchard.



GARDENS, current state



PHOTO: M. TORRES MOLINA | SOUTHERN PATIO, 1929



SOUTHERN PATIO, current state

The Southern Patio ^B

THE HOUSE OF LORENZO EL CHAPIZ



The Southern Patio has certain characteristics that are a reminder of large Nasrid palaces. It is rectangular (19.3 x 13.5 m) and retains its original central pond. The patio is arranged around an area that during Nasrid times would have had bays with rooms on all four sides of only the ground floor, and five-arch porticoes along the shorter sides. On the northern portico there are reused Nasrid elements (white marble bases, shafts and capitals). The upper floor would have been built by Lorenzo el Chapiz, or at least three of the sides that remain today, with wooden galleries looking south. Cypress trees planted in a row along the southern and western bays help recover the appearance of the closed patio.

The Gardens ^C

THE OLD ORCHARD

The gardens, planted around 1935, are spread over an area of the former orchard. They were newly designed using the typical features seen in Granada, similar to those planted during this period in the Generalife and the Alhambra palaces. The gardens cover an extensive area (100 m long with an average width of 15 m) supported by a thick Nasrid wall built of rammed earth and mortar. The gardens are accessed from the patio that lies to the south of the house and their design is made up of seven boxwood squares standing in a line, containing different kinds of trees and shrubs (myrtles, bitter orange, pomegranates, etc.). Throughout the entire area there are wonderful views of the Alhambra and the Generalife palaces.





ENTRANCE

Cuesta del Chapiz

Camino del Sacramento

AREA CLOSED TO VISITORS

GROUND FLOOR OF THE MONUMENT AND GARDENS

- A NORTHERN PATIO
- B SOUTHERN PATIO
- C GARDENS
- 1 INFORMATION
- 2 LIBRARY OFFICE
- 3 READING ROOM
- 4 MEETING ROOM
- 5 TOILETS
- 6 STAIRS



Dobla de Oro
ALHAMBRA/ALBAICÍN



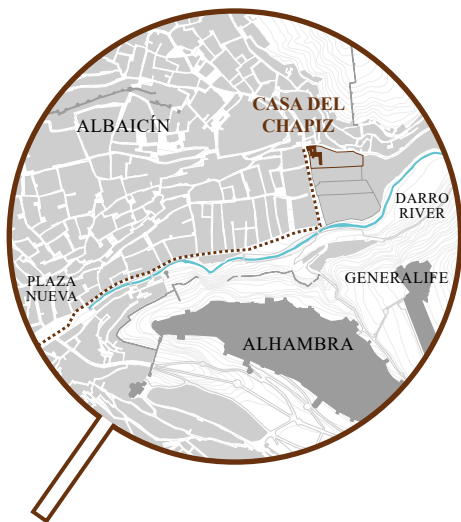
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Opening times for tourists

[1 May/14 September]

Monday to Sunday: 9:00 - 14:30 and 17:00 - 20:30

[15 September/30 April]

Monday to Sunday: 10:00 - 17:00

Library opening hours

[16 June/15 September]

Monday to Friday: 8:30 - 15:00

[16 September/15 June]

Monday to Thursday: 8:30 - 15:00 and 16:00 - 18:30

Friday: 8:30 - 15:00

TEXTS

EEA (CSIC) official website

Álvarez de Morales C.; Orihuela Uzal A. (2013). *La Casa del Chapiz*

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