

Santoña, cultural

History, architecture and monuments . . .



Casa Palacio de los Marqueses de Manzanedo:



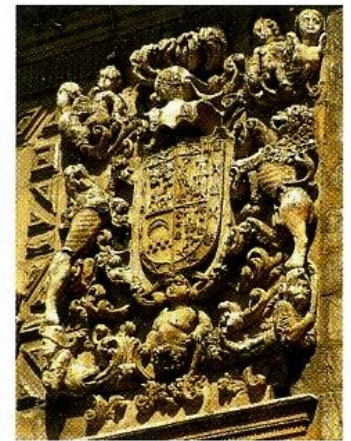
This palace, was built in the 19th Century, by Don Juan Manuel de Manzanedo González, an Spaniard who went to Cuba as a teenager and made his fortune on the island through trade before returning to Spain. A notable master and great benefactor of his fellow countrymen, he founded Manzanedo school in Santoña, of vital importance for the town residents. The palace, was planned and erected in 1864 by the architect Antonio Ruiz de Salces, and it's made up of two buildings: the palace and the coach house. The shape is simple, a nearly square prismatic structure of neoclassic at design. It is built from coated masonry, only revealing the stonework of its plinth, corners and openings. Currently the building holds the tourist information office.

Casa-Palacio de los Marqueses de Chiloeches:

This building, built in the early 18th Century, is noted for its main front made from masonry stone. The herringbone and diamond-shaped pattern rustication are unique in our region. The building has had various uses over the course of its history. In fact, in the mid-19th Century Pascual Madoz, a reporter from Santoña, described the Isla house as the building that housed the Military Hospital of Santoña, a function which would fulfil until the Civil War, when it became a prison. Although little information is available, the foundation of the building can be attributed to D. Juan de Maeda de Hoyo, born in 1648, who was a lawyer for the Royal Councils and owner of the primogeniture to the Maeda House of this town.



The palace has also four shields, the most notable ones are located on the upper extremities of the main front. They are decorated with tritons, putti and telamons among leaves. One of them is divided into quarters with the symbols of the surnames and alliances of the founder, held up by large lions. There are two simpler shields on the north front, with the same arms and held up by children.

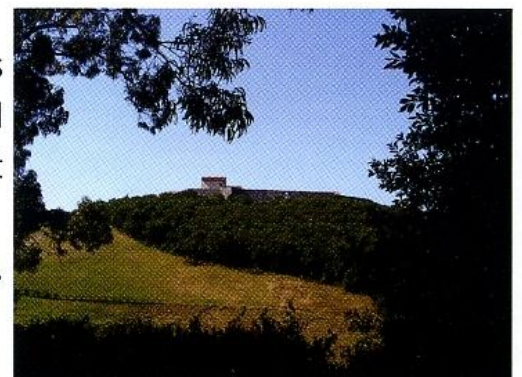


The forts, batteries and powder stores of Monte Buciero:

In 1812 Napoleon himself oversaw the construction of the fort that bears his name. **Fuerte de Napoleón** looks over all points from the north to east, preventing any kind of attack, whether by disembarkation on the Berria beach or by overland invasion.

The fort had a barracks for over a hundred soldiers and a supplies warehouse. Its construction demanded a large outlay and suffered significant complications; part of the crag on which it was being built fell apart.

It was renovated slightly in 1870 and in 2001 it was completely restored. It is classified as an Asset of Cultural Interest.



Polvorín y Cuerpo de Guardia del Helechal:

Positioned at little more than 100 metres from Fuerte de Napoleón, it is a solid building with two sections and four independent compartments for providing a safe store for loose powder and rifle and artillery ammunition. It has a quadrangular shape, lightning conductor and a brick perimeter wall to absorb impact from a potential explosion.

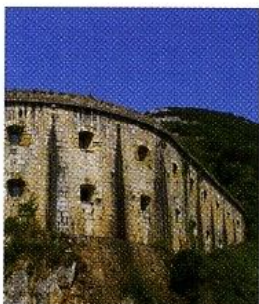


Fuerte de San Martín:

Built in the early 17th Century but underwent successive renovation works over the next two centuries, which transformed Fuerte de San Martín into an imposing fortification.

With a surface area of 2,700 square metres, today it is horseshoe-shaped and made up of two casemated firing points, with an upper terrace which was also used for cannons and mortars.

It has been classified as an Asset of Cultural Interest.



Bateria Alta de San Martín:

It is a few metres away and it was built to complement the fort. It was finished in 1859. Covering a surface area of 4,000 square metres, it includes a powder store, quarters for the troops and a warehouse, as well as a broad terrace with a permanent parapet for the artillery.

Bateria Alta y Baja de Galvanés:

This defensive complex was built to defend the entrance to the bay of Santoña and its anchorage. Constructed between 1811 and 1812 by Napoleonic engineers, both fortifications were reconstructed in 1859, although the original plan was very ambitious and was never completely executed.

The Bateria Baja has been classified as an Asset of Cultural Interest.

Fuerte de San Carlos:

The oldest fort of Santoña, built from earth and wood in the early 17th Century, at a point which already served as a coastal lookout. At the end of the century the town decided to replace the badly-built battery with another made from stone, which would be called Fuerte de San Carlos. It has a large barracks for the troops, a number of buildings for warehouses and powder stores and a casemated battery. With its 37 cannons it was an essential fort for the defence of Santoña's port. It was declared an Asset of Cultural Interest in 1992.





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