

1808  
1809

# Los Sitios de Zaragoza

## Spain square

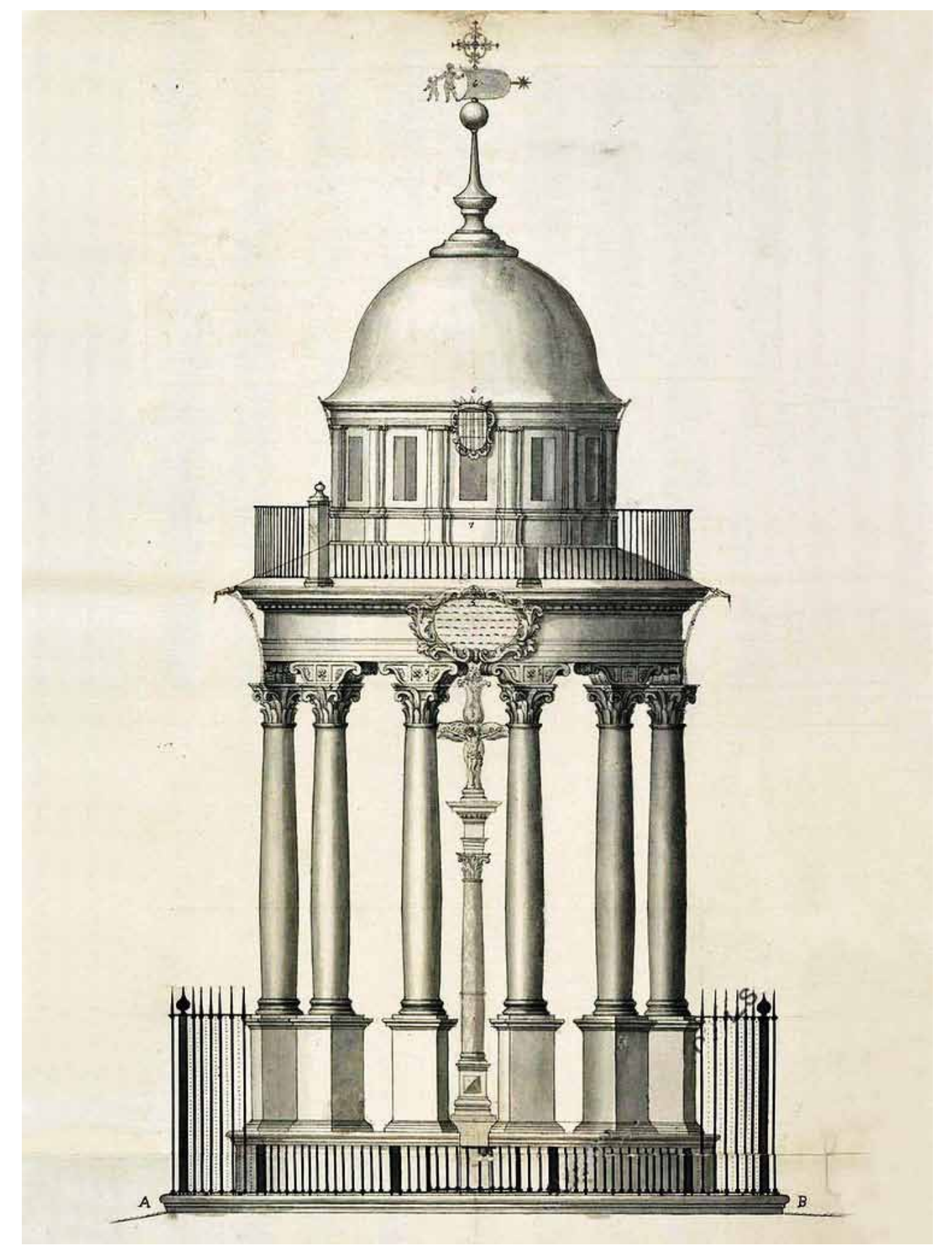
The current name of the Square called Plaza de España was formerly the Plaza de San Francisco at the time of the Sieges. It is a zone where decisive battles took place, the maximum penetration point by the French in the first Siege.



Grabado de Gálvez y Brambila. Vista de la calle del Coso.

## CONVENT OF SAN FRANCISCO

Nothing remains of the old Convent of San Francisco which was built on the plot now occupied by the Provincial Council of Zaragoza, since several months after the capitulation of the city on 21 February, the ruins which still remained standing after the major blasts it had undergone were demolished. The Franciscan convent housed the popularly known “Cristo de los Sitios” (Christ of the Sieges), rescued by María Blázquez who moved the statue to El Pilar temple. The marks of the French bullets are still conserved and it is currently deposited in the church of San Cayetano.



Alzado de la Cruz del Coso.

This engraving illustrates a view of the Plaza de España at the time of the Sieges.

The church called Iglesia del Hospital de Nuestra Señora de Gracia, with its steeple and a stork's nest. The highest tower corresponds to the church of the San Francisco convent. Between both buildings, there is a glimpse of the formerly narrow street called Calle de Santa Engracia, where the Promenade now called Paseo de la Independencia begins.

The ruins of the Coso Cross are shown on the right, destroyed by a shot from a French cannon during the first siege. Since 1908, there is a monument to the “Martyrs of Religion and the Country”, a sculptural work which represents Faith holding a wounded defender with a fallen rifle at her feet.



The Monument to the Martyrs was inaugurated on 23 October 1904. It was designed by Ricardo Magdalena and the set of bronze cast sculptures is by Agustín Querol. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1\_0148.



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The Hospital de Nuestra Señora de Gracia has been internationally acclaimed for its care to mentally ill patients, especially at the end of the 18th century due to the therapeutic possibilities of working with mentally ill patients, which were observed and practised here.



Plaza de la Constitución (Constitution Square), now called "Plaza de España". Santa Engracia Promenade, now called "Paseo de la Independencia". Princess or Neptune Fountain. Approx. 1900. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1\_0454.

## HOSPITAL GENERAL DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GRACIA

In the plot of the current Bank de España (Bank of Spain), the Hospital General de Nuestra Señora de Gracia was built, the city's only large hospital. As a result of the destruction which it underwent during the first siege, the patients were transferred to the Hospital de Convalecientes (Convalescent Hospital), which is better known today as the Provincial Hospital. In the second Siege, it completely collapsed due to a French blast.



Sitio de Zaragoza, grabado ilustración de la *Historia de Francia*. 1885.

## FOURTH OF AUGUST STREET

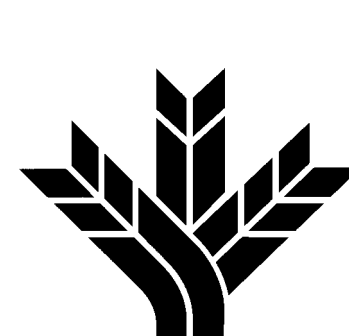
The nearby street called Calle del Cuatro de Agosto, in the popular Tube, commemorates the date on which Napoleon's soldiers advanced toward it after occupying the Monastery of los Jerónimos, in the current square, Plaza de Santa Engracia. On that date in 1808, the French invaders were repulsed by the defenders, who, with scarce resources, participated in one of the bloodiest battles that took place during the first siege.



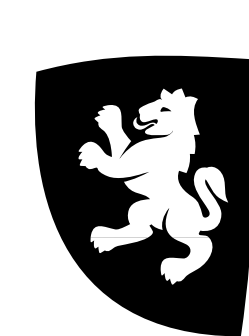
Plaza de la Constitución (Constitution Square), now called "Plaza de España". Approx. 1902. Archivo Municipal de Zaragoza, 4-1\_0190.



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CAJA RURAL  
DE ARAGÓN



Zaragoza  
AYUNTAMIENTO