

## STATELY HOMES



The economic wealth some families reached during the 18th century was reflected in the architectural style of their homes. The facades presented three equal hollows. The central one was the door. Instead, the side hollows had grilles and formed two large windows. On the upper floor, the balconies had railings which were usually painted in warm and bright colors.

### HOUSE OF THE MARQUIS DE VALDECAÑAS

At the beginning of Estrella Street, which in the Modern Period was a very busy road between La Puerta Alta and the Hermitage de las Ánimas, we can find the “House of the Marquis de Valdecañas”, another example of this stately architecture. The house is organised around a central porticoed courtyard, with two floors and a gabled roof. The ground floor was used for services (stables or warehouses) and the upper floor for housing.

Although its courtyard and facade have been transformed, it still preserves the stairwell covered by a nice dome over pendentives, giving this space a religious character.

In the last decades of the 19th century, it was the residence in Adra of this noble, after marrying Doña Matilde Álvarez Moya, heir to the Count of Chacón I.



### DOÑA BLANCA'S HOUSE



The other building, located in Ave Maria Street and popularly known as “Doña Blanca’s house”, occupies a very slope plot, so the first floor is at ground level at the height of the front door.

It is a construction with simple walls and flat roof. To enter the house it is necessary to go through a hallway with ogee arch and crowned by the family heraldry, in an attempt to show their economic and social advancement. Inside we find an arcaded courtyard and an upper gallery.

Outside, the linteled windows have simple ledges reinforced by curved irons and covered by tiled roof, whereas on the last floor there are three balconies, two of them with simple parapets and the central one with a ledge supported by three irons and a railing.

## OLD HOUSE WHICH HOUSES THE MUSEUM OF ADRA



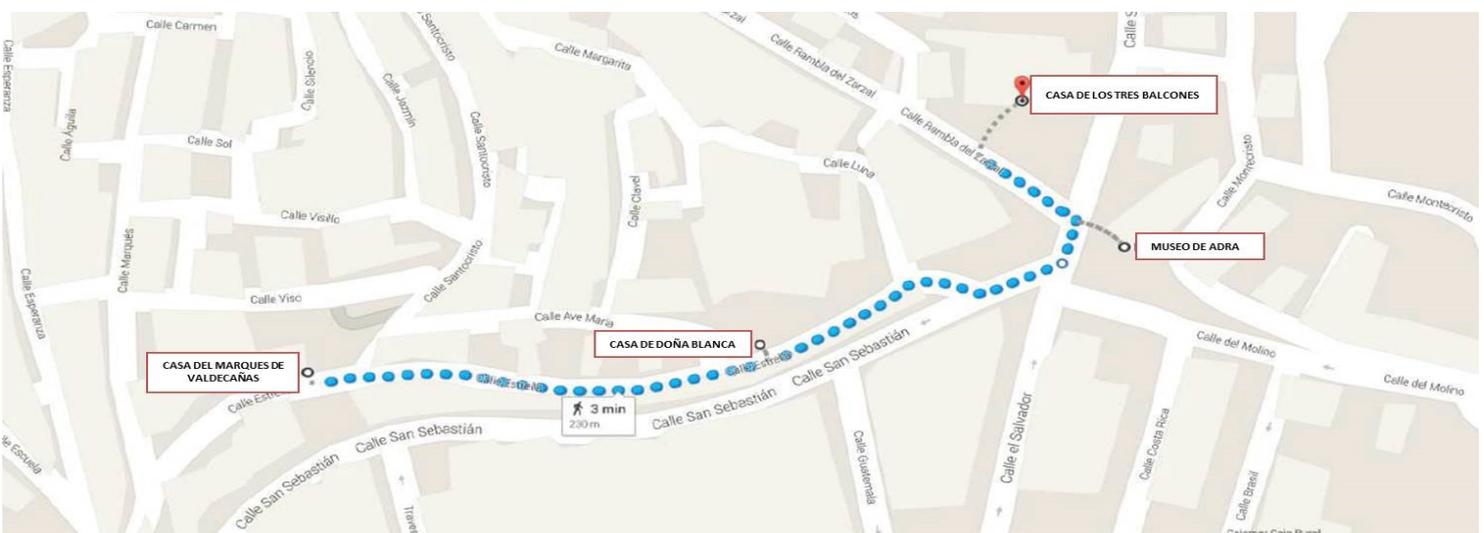
In the vicinity of the Plaza de San Sebastian, which was in those days a crossroads situated on the edge of the urban area, the Gneccos, a rich family of merchants from Genoa that came to Adra in 1717 to develop an intense commercial activity, built two “main houses”. One of them is known as “the house with three balconies”, which is situated in the Rambla del Zarzal and was built by order of Doña Maria Teresa Gnecco Costa before 1744.

The facade has a classic design in which we should highlight the stone access cover with columns supporting the entablature and the coat of arms at the center of the lintel. Above this doorway it is the main balcony, with a stone ledge and surrounded by a simple iron railing, while the lateral balconies are smaller. The windows of the ground floor have grilles which isolate them from outside. In addition, the facade is organized on a lower plinth which leads to the two floors of the house, separated by a cornice at the level of the balconies. In addition, the house is crowned with a simple cornice which protrudes from the roof.

## THE HOUSE WITH THE THREE BALCONIES

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