



Arch of Saint Francis

The first city wall of Pastrana dates back to the 14th century, built under the government of the military Order of Calatrava to which the territory belonged. To a great extent, it was the consequence of the disputes within the Order itself and the struggles to take control.

Undoubtedly, the wall was a security element and it marked out the area of the medieval village, but it was also the legal, economic and psychological factor that defined what was the village of Pastrana and what was not. The gates of the wall, closed at night, served as a point of transit where taxes were collected from the merchants who passed through. It also marked the area in which those within the village used to enjoy special privileges.

At that time there were eight gates of which two remain today. Of these eight gates, some were true entrance arches and others were small gaps. Only the Gate of Zorita is preserved in its original location between the Plaza de la Hora and the Calle Mayor, although it is now known as the Arch of the Calle Mayor.

The Gate of San Francis had a different location in the primitive medieval wall; it was moved to its current position in the 17th century when the wall was rebuilt to safeguard the population from a plague epidemic in 1650. It gets its name from the Franciscan convent built outside the wall, currently on the other side of the main road.