



The House of Moratín

Monument not open to the public.

The famous writer Leandro Fernández de Moratín knew Pastrana thanks to his paternal grandmother who was from Pastrana. Furthermore, his father used to spend long periods in the village and it is very possible that Leandro visited from childhood.

In 1789 Moratín bought an old house and a large piece of land outside the town with the intention of building a house with a garden and an orchard with a pond. The house was built under the direction of the architect Silvestre Pérez, a close friend of Moratín who was later appointed royal architect. In 1800 the work was finished.

The outbreak of the Spanish War of Independence (1808–1812) caught Moratín by surprise in Pastrana, this being his last stay in this house. When the French lost the war, Moratín began a nomadic life that led him into exile in Paris. In the end, from his exile, he donated the Pastrana house to the Foundling Hospital of Madrid, but with the confiscation of civil assets the house passed to the State and was auctioned off in 1859. Later on, it came into the hands of the Carmelite Sisters who established a girls' school.

During the summer and autumn seasons that he spent in Pastrana, Moratín wrote some of his works such as 'La mojigata', and was inspired in the inn of Alcalá de Henares – an obligatory stop on his trip to Pastrana from Madrid – to write the play 'El sí de las niñas'.