



Saint Buenaventura School

Monument not open to the public.

The construction of the Saint Buenaventura School in 1628 is attributed to the Archbishop Don Pedro González de Mendoza, son of the Prince and Princess of Éboli. It was founded as a boarding school for the children in the choir who used to take part in the ceremonies of the collegiate church. The collegiate church was a place of great celebrations and Fray Pedro, in founding the school not only carried out a great deed as patron, but also endowed the temple with a children's choir that gave greater solemnity to the services.

At this school lessons included musical theory, instruments, Latin and other subjects such as writing, arithmetic and science. It was one of the first schools where formal musical education was taught, until then only taught in chapels and churches.

The design of the building was provided by Fray Pedro himself, and included a rectangular floor plan, various levels, a private chapel and a rear garden. He intended to live here: its layout corresponds to the idea of a palace or noble dwelling rather than to that of a pedagogical institution. The garden is one of the most special examples of the Moorish legacy in Pastrana: it reflects the Hispanic-Muslim tradition of the garden-orchard and is built on ascending terraces.

On the façade we recognise the coat of arms of Fray Pedro González de Mendoza and its elements that represent his ecclesiastical position as archbishop. In the upper section we can see the Virgen de la Salceda, title of the Franciscan convent where he practised.