

House of Independence

Beatriz Gonzalez de Bosio

The House, belonging to the Martinez Saenzes is one the only two remaining family quarters from the nineteenth century.

Located scarcely two blocks from the Governor's Mansion, it served as the meeting points for the patriots concerned at the time about the open attempt by the Portuguese Crown in Rio de Janeiro, to claim sovereignty over the Spanish possessions overseas.

The conspiratorial gatherings did not raise any suspicions from the authorities because they involved young officers who often socialized together in a village that held few prospects for entertainment outside the rare dances or the religious Matron Saint's celebrations.

The House survived the transformation of the street design into the grid iron layout because its structure coincided with the new municipal organization in the 1820s.

The Back Alley of History

It is part nowadays of the landmark. Through the back door would come and go Lieutenant Colonel Fulgencio Yegros, the senior officer of the Independent movement at 25 year old, Captain Mauricio José Troche, Second Lieutenant Vicente Ignacio Iturbe and fellow officers visiting Captain Pedro Juan Cavallero, nephew of the Martinez Saenzes, and resident of the House, when he came from Tobati.

From here, the leaders of the Revolution left on the night of the 14th May, 1811 to go and take over the barracks to display the troops and cannons that persuaded Governor Bernardo de Velazco that it would be fruitless to resist.

The movement was led by Captain Cavallero as Commander Yegros was away guarding the borders. Despite the fact that the Governor was requested to join the "revolutionary" junta and that the movement swore loyalty to King Ferdinand VII , at the time a prisoner of Napoleon Bonaparte's, Paraguay never again returned under Spanish rule.