



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR SPORTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE & YOUTH
310 Main Street
Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

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St. Jago's Arch and the Church of Nuestra Señora del Rosario

For many years it was believed that a large doorway opposite the Ince's Hall had been brought there from a nearby site. However, conservation and restoration work carried out by the Gibraltar Museum in 2013 confirmed that it was, in fact, in its original location. Drawings and plans dating back to the late 16th and early 17th Centuries show that this was indeed the location of the Roman Catholic Church of Nuestra Señora del Rosario. Conservation works have exposed new parts of the doorway and have confirmed that it is in its original location. The doorway belonged to the original church. Now professionally conserved and restored, this ornately carved sandstone entrance and parts of the building's adjacent walls are the only clearly identifiable remnant of the original building.

The rest of the remaining walls now form part of the building known as St. Jago's Stone Block, which is of later British construction, and which was named after the nearby 16th Century Bastión de Santiago that lies just east of the Trafalgar Cemetery, and was renamed Flat Bastion by the British.

St Jago's Arch had been suffering from significant erosion for a number of years. In 2013, Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar took the decision, based on advice from the Gibraltar Museum and the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, to conserve the monument. This was restored by the Gibraltar Museum between August and October 2013, in consultation with the Gibraltar Heritage Trust.

The Minister with responsibility for Heritage Steven Linares MP said:

"The restoration of the Arch had been on the agenda of the Heritage Action Committee since 2007. On coming into office, the new Government started looking at the possibility of restoring this magnificent piece of Gibraltar's heritage. The restoration reflects the commitment of the Government in this field."

The completed works will be inaugurated by The Honourable Steven Linares, MP, Minister for Heritage of Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar, on Wednesday 22nd January, 2014, at 1830 hours.