



Antiguo mercado, finales s. XIX (Díez, J.)

25. Former El Cabanyal market

What is today El Dr. Lorenzo de la Flor Square used to house the former El Cabanyal market. Before it was built there were street markets, one in each district, formed by four guilds: sellers of meat; wine, vinegar and spirits; oil and soap, and snow. José Gosálvez Ramón, father of mayor and master builder Juan Bautista Gosálvez, was their representative.

In view of the need for a stable market, in 1867 the Council entrusted architect Joaquín María Calvo with the project, although it was not executed due to lack of funds. It was eventually built by mechanical engineer Pedro Llorca Vidal.

The plot was a 40.20 m x 45 m rectangle with 52 stalls spread in eight rows. The building was covered with two metal truss structures clad with tiles. All four façades featured a door, with the main entrance on San Andrés Street, today Escalante Street in honour of the playwright born on that street.

The old market was the hub of El Cabanyal between 1869 and 1958 when the new market between Martí Grajales Street and El Marí Sirera Street was inaugurated.

The spot that held the old market is one of the most important squares in the neighbourhood. Statues of José Benlliure and Eduardo Escalante were placed in the square.