



Museo Etnográfico
de Grandas de Salime
“Pepe el Ferreiro”

A Living Museum



© Camala

The Museum

The Museo Etnográfico de Grandas de Salime "Pepe el Ferreiro" is a public institution that gathers, preserves, studies and disseminates the material and immaterial heritage of the farming communities of western Asturias.

Opened on 2 June 1984, it initially occupied three rooms on the ground floor of the Town Hall of Grandas de Salime, and was then moved to its current location in 1989.

The material repertoire focuses on the way of life and trades of traditional peasant society. The heart of a collection of around 20,000 pieces is made up of the initial collection compiled by its founder, José María Naveiras Escanlar, "Pepe el Ferreiro". Its geographical scope focuses on the councils of western Asturias, but also includes pieces from other areas of Asturias, from different regions of the Iberian Peninsula and from different European areas.

The exhibition criteria maintained since its foundation invites visitors to a direct immersion in the spaces, avoiding barriers between the collections and the public.



© Manuel Díaz. Colectivo RGB. Fundación del Parque Histórico del Navia.

Pepe el Ferreiro

José María Naveiras Escanlar "Pepe el Ferreiro" (31 March 1942, Grandas de Salime - 13 June 2020, Belmonte de Miranda) was born and grew up in a peasant family with a long tradition of *ferreiros* (ironworkers).



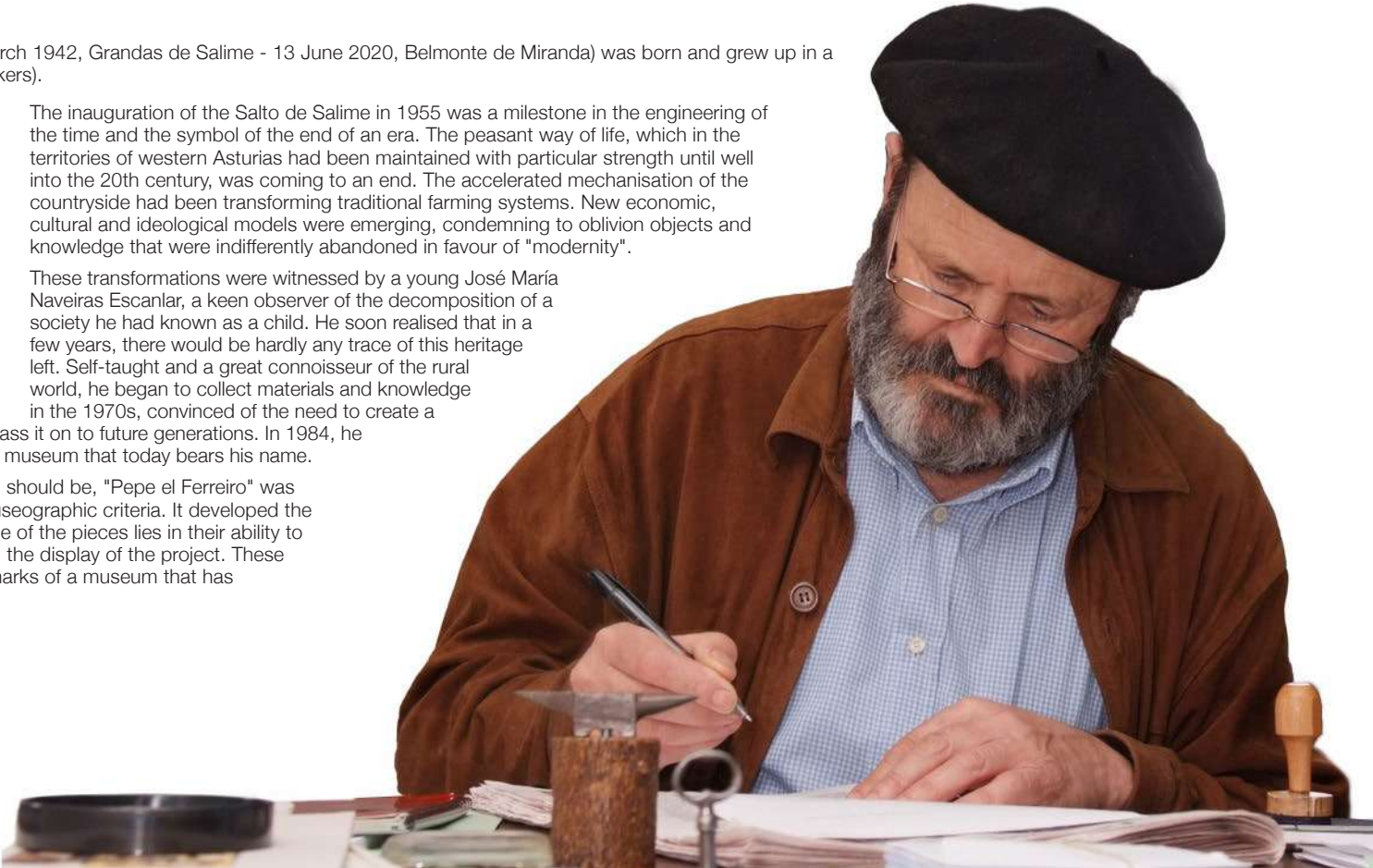
© Archivo del museo

public institution that would preserve this heritage and pass it on to future generations. In 1984, he would see his dream come true with the founding of the museum that today bears his name.

With a radically contemporary vision of what a museum should be, "Pepe el Ferreiro" was several decades ahead of current museological and museographic criteria. It developed the concept of a "living museum", establishing that the value of the pieces lies in their ability to tell stories and incorporating artisans and neighbours in the display of the project. These approaches are still in full force and constitute the hallmarks of a museum that has become a reference in its field.

The inauguration of the Salto de Salime in 1955 was a milestone in the engineering of the time and the symbol of the end of an era. The peasant way of life, which in the territories of western Asturias had been maintained with particular strength until well into the 20th century, was coming to an end. The accelerated mechanisation of the countryside had been transforming traditional farming systems. New economic, cultural and ideological models were emerging, condemning to oblivion objects and knowledge that were indifferently abandoned in favour of "modernity".

These transformations were witnessed by a young José María Naveiras Escanlar, a keen observer of the decomposition of a society he had known as a child. He soon realised that in a few years, there would be hardly any trace of this heritage left. Self-taught and a great connoisseur of the rural world, he began to collect materials and knowledge in the 1970s, convinced of the need to create a



© Manuel Fernández

The permanent exhibition

The Museum's exhibition area occupies a surface area of over 3,000 m². The collections and exhibits are distributed in three sections, articulated around three buildings:

- The Rectory House (La Casa Rectoral)
- The Miller's House (La Casa del Molinero)
- The Mansion (La Casona)

Also:

Library. Thematic library with access reserved for researchers.

Multi-purpose rooms. Located on the upper floor of the Miller's House, they house the Museum's temporary exhibitions and activities.

Workshops. Carpentry and preventive conservation workshop.

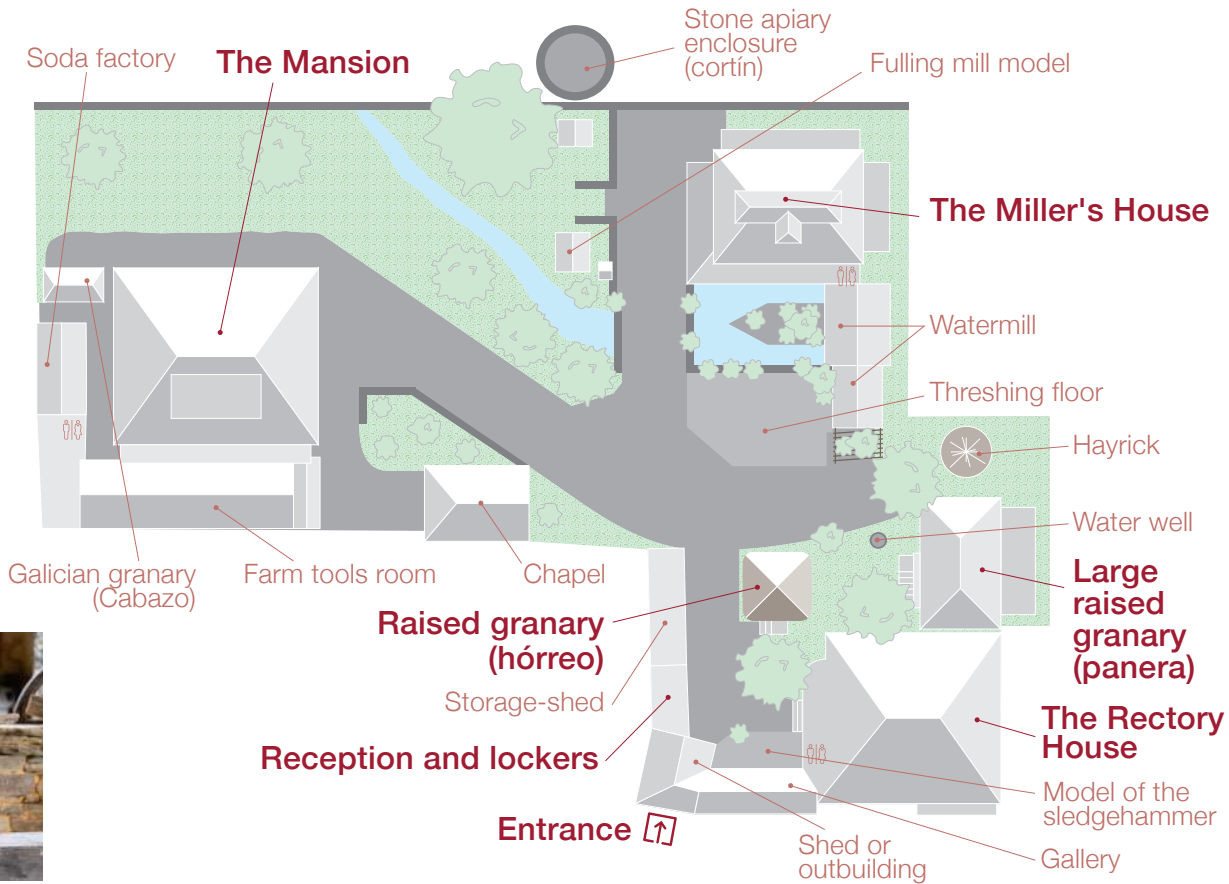
Warehouses. Museum Bookings and New Admissions Area.

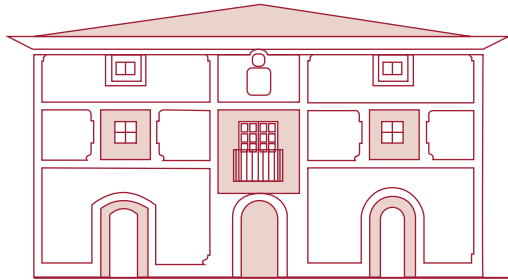
Live demonstrations of traditional trades and tasks of daily peasant life.

Traditional games. Wide repertoire of traditional games available to visitors.



© Juan Pablo Torrente. Consejería de Cultura, Política Lingüística y Deporte. Red Meda





The Mansion

The Mansion exemplifies the type of dwelling characteristic of the small rural nobility or of the better-off peasants. Although it is a new building, original materials were used in its construction, such as the masonry of the openings and the coat of arms. The social and economic position of the owners is evident in the volume of the building, the materials used and the introduction of decorative elements on the façade. These families had a private **chapel**, also represented in the Museum by a small building built according to the model of the rural chapels in the region.

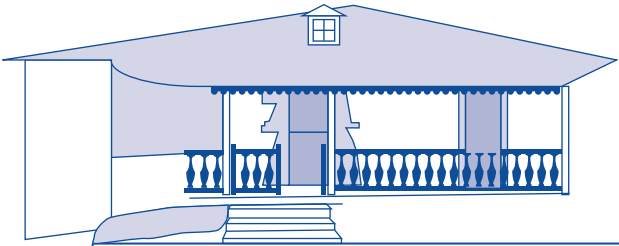
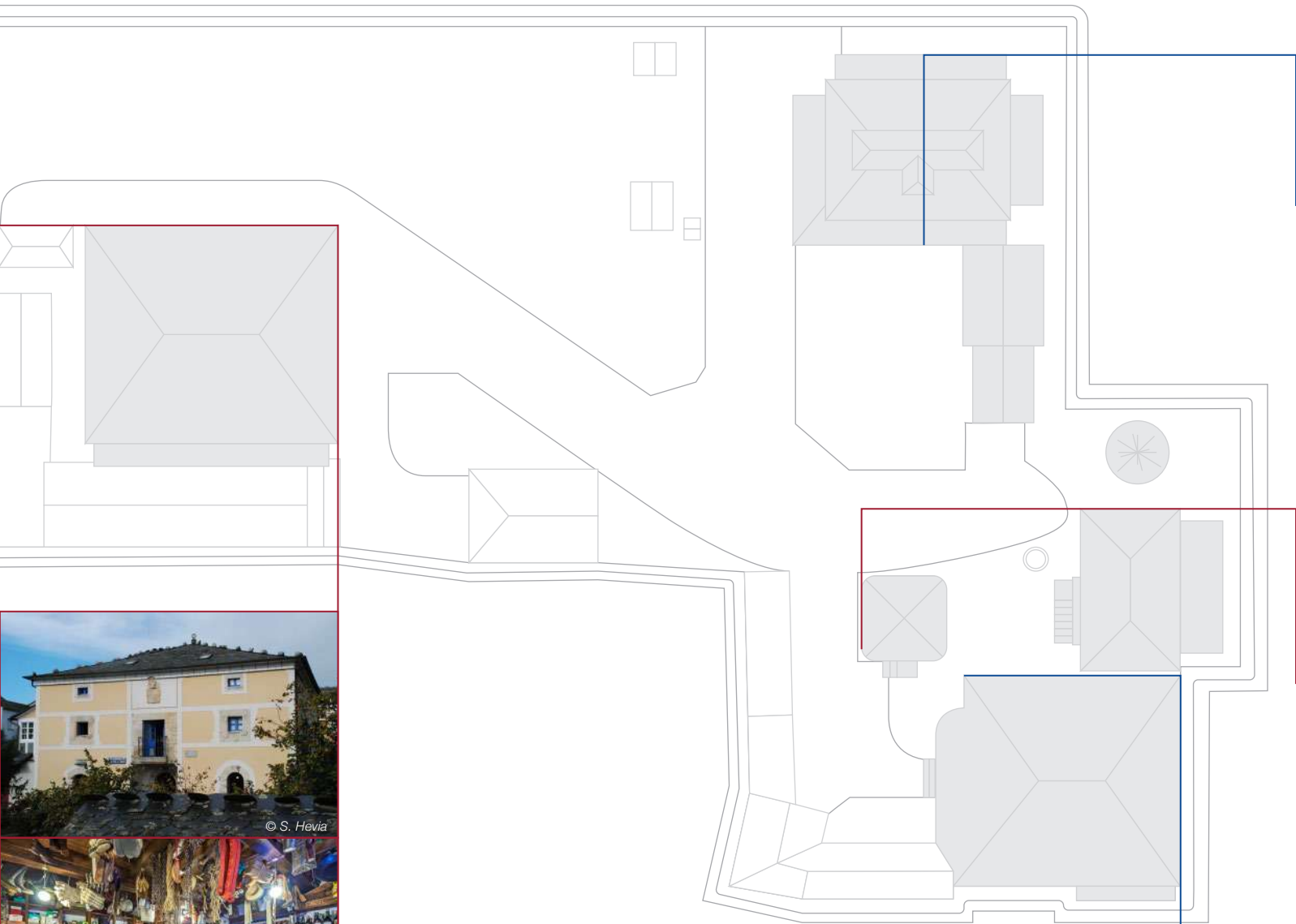
The exhibition floors invite you to take a journey through the trades and services that were installed in rural communities as peasant societies were transformed and generated new needs and demands.

- Upper floor
- Hunting and fishing gear
 - Dentist's office
 - Bee keeping
 - Infirmary
 - Lighting systems
 - School
 - Weights and measures
 - Madrefías, galochas and zocas
- Ground floor
- Shop
 - Communications
 - Barbershop
 - Tailor's shop
 - Economical kitchen

Attached to the Mansion is the **farm tools room** and nearby is the **soda factory** and a Galician granary or **cabazo**, a type of granary specially designed for drying and curing grain that achieved notable development in western Asturias.

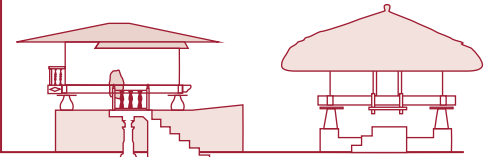


*Juan Pablo Torrente. Consejería de Cultura, Política Lingüística y Deporte. Red Meda



The Rectory House

The Rectory House is a historic building from the end of the 19th century that has been refurbished maintaining its general appearance and traditional construction systems and materials. It is a good example of the traditional housing model in the region, with an entrance gate and a yard. It is a masonry building with a slate roof, a quadrangular floor plan with a bread oven and massive walls with few small openings. It has two floors and an attic, and its own water **well**. The upper floor includes the family's living quarters, with the kitchen (*lareira*) as the reference space around which the family's daily life was organised. On the lower floor, the space originally used for the animal stables is now occupied by a representation of the traditional trades linked to the basic needs and self-sufficiency of the community, most of which were carried out by the peasants.



- Upper floor
- Entrance yard
 - A lareira/kitchen
 - Textile room
 - Room or bedroom
 - Gallery
 - Small room
- Ground floor
- Collection of yokes
 - Shoemaker's workshop
 - Winery
 - Canteen
 - Wood room
 - Forge
 - Lathe room

At the ground floor exit, the **model of the sledgehammer** provides an educational insight into the operation of this hydraulic device that was introduced in western Asturias as a result of the great development of the iron industry, especially from the 17th and 18th centuries, when the use of the water wheel became widespread.

The Miller's House and the Watermill

The Miller's House is a new building. Based on traditional models in the region, it consists of two floors and an attic with small rectangular openings to allow pigeons to enter. Its structure enables us to visualise the evolution of the traditional domestic architecture of the region. Unlike the more inward-looking solution of the Rectory House, in this model, the façades open outwards, incorporating larger openings, corridors and galleries with different enclosure systems. On the upper floor, you can visit the **"Pepe el Ferreiro" Room**, the last office used by José María Naveiras Escanlar. It also houses the Museum's **multi-purpose rooms**, which are used for temporary exhibitions and activities that are periodically renewed. The ground floor includes the Museum's carpentry and preventive conservation **workshops**. The **hydraulic flour mill** was a key device for peasant societies, which devoted a large part of their efforts to the process of harvesting, gathering, storing and transforming cereals. The water supply comes from the small stream that runs through the Museum grounds. It houses the mechanisms of three different grinding wheels, one of which can be seen in operation during the visit.

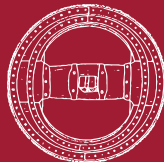


Peasant warehouses

The peasant house constituted a unit of exploitation in which the dwelling and the stables were an important part, but not the only one. The house also included vegetable gardens, arable fields and communal woodlands. And the house was not complete if it did not have a raised granary (*hórreo*), a large raised granary (*panera*) or both, in which to store foodstuffs and produce from harvests and crops. In simplified form, these unique elements that form part of the Asturian rural landscape are made up of a quadrangular wooden box that rises from the ground on characteristic suspension elements (*pegollos* or *pes*), safeguarding the products from rodents and humidity.

The large raised granary (*panera*) was developed later than the raised granary (*hórreo*). As its capacity increases, it develops a rectangular plan, usually needing more supporting elements and requiring a more complex roof incorporating at least one ridge beam. The **raised granary (*hórreo*)** in the Museum is an adaptation of a large raised granary (*panera*) from Berducedo (Ayande), dated 1874. The roof is made of rye straw and is fastened with heather twigs. This covering technique is traditional in the region and few examples remain. The **large raised granary (*panera*)**, also from the late 19th century, comes from the village of Escanlar in Ernes (Negueira de Muñiz, Galicia). It responds to the characteristics of the time: high board wall, slate roof and a small corridor on one side.





Museo Etnográfico

de Grandas de Salime

“Pepe el Ferreiro”

Avenida del Ferreiro, nº 17
33730 Grandas de Salime

More information and bookings:
www.museodegrandas.es
902 306 600 | 985 627 243



Principao
d'Asturias

ICOM consejo
internacional
de museos
España

RED
DE MUSEOS
ETNOGRÁFICOS
DE ASTURIAS