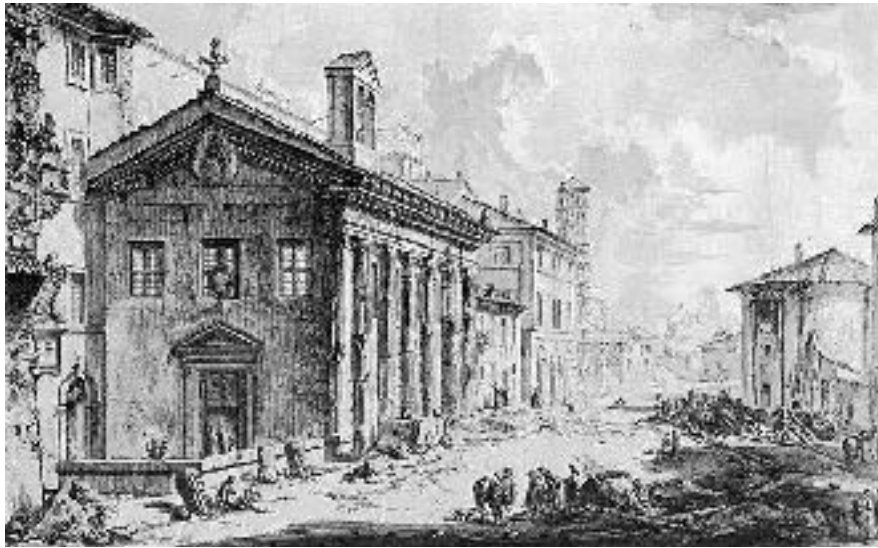


Santa Maria Egiziaca

(Deconsecrated)



The **church of Santa Maria Egiziaca** is a church of Rome in Rione Ripa in Piazza Bocca della Verità, at the Forum Boarium.

History

It was built using the structures of the Temple of Portun, along the banks of the Tiber.

An epigraph by the discovery in 1571 shows that the ancient Roman temple was transformed into a church under the papacy of Pope John VIII, in 872 (or 873), and was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, the church was called *Sanctae Mariae in Secundicerio* because entrusted to the care of Stephen Stefaneschi, judge and secundicerio, the second most important official of the court of John VIII.

In medieval documents the church is also called *Sanctae Mariae de gradellis*: l'Armellini attributes this name to another church post in the circus Maximus, whose steps have access to the origin of the name, for Hulsen and other authors this title is due rather to our church, and *gradellae* would, in this case, the tiers of access to the Tiber.

The name of Santa Maria Egiziaca (Egyptian saint of the 3rd century) is documented for the first time in a catalog of 1492 and became common in the catalogs of the 16th century.

Pope Pius V, in 1571, granted the church to the Armenians who lost their church because of the construction of the ghetto and that held until 1921: this was the national church of the Armenians. Clement XI (1700-1721) restored and beautified the church, as well as the adjacent hospital, where the Armenian pilgrims stayed who came to visit the holy places of Rome.

In the 1924 the church was desecrated for the restoration of the Roman temple, much of the interior furnishings were transferred to the church of San Nicola da Tolentino (#443), that became the new Armenian national Church. The hospice for Armenian pilgrims was demolished in 1930.

Exterior

The temple is Ionic, 20 metres long and 12 wide, with north-south orientation parallel to the Tiber, tetrastyle prostyle, and stands on a podium 2.50 metres in height and originally 26 metres long. p331It was pseudo-peripteral, with five engaged columns in the side walls of the cella and a pronaos. The two free columns of the pronaos were walled up to increase the size of the church; but the temple has recently been isolated and all modern accretions have been removed. The cella walls and engaged columns, except those at the angles, are of tufa; the columns of the pronaos, the capitals of all the columns, the architrave and cornice, and the facing of the podium, of travertine.

Interior

The church kept inside canvas, placed the main altar, depicting *Mary Egiziaca*, by Federico Zuccari, and entering the church, on the left side, there was a model of the chapel of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

Although it was restored the temple of Portun, it still preserves ancient paintings depicting early hosts of saints and stories of the Virgin Mary, and other frescoes with the latest stories from the holy Egyptian.

Location:

Coordinates: [41°53'21"N 12°28'51"E](#)

Links:

http://romanchurches.wikia.com/wiki/Santa_Maria_Egiziaca

http://74.125.45.132/translate_c?hl=en&sl=it&u=http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiesa_di_Santa_Maria_Egiziaca

<http://www.romeartlover.it/Vasi94.htm>