

Tuilier's Gate (The Perier House)

The Tuilier's Gate was the main entrance to the village in the Middle Ages. Its center is comprised of a groin vault falling on stone corbels. Inside, a beautiful decorated lintel in the inside. Outside, one can admire a narrower arch, now broken, as well as another broken arch, one more ancient most probably. There is also a beautiful facade embellished with a blade turret.

The Perier House

It was owned by the Olliviers and associates, a family of lawyers who in 1727 also acquired the small fiefdom of Aiguebonne located in Alex.

One of its members, François Ollivier (born in Alex in 1762) was a lawyer in Grenoble and when the French revolution broke out and, like all other members of the Grenoble Bar, wound up in 1788 at the Assembly of Vizille, cradle of the French revolution. Another François Ollivier was much later mayor of Alex in 1874.

The house then belonged to Jeanne Blancard, widow of Auguste Perier, having acquired it from the Bochet-Ollivier couple in November 1891. Auguste was the uncle of Casimir Perier, President of France in the Third Republic from 1894 to 1895. Jeanne was the sister of Françoise Bontoux (widowed), née Blancard, proprietor of the Château across the street. Upon her death in March 1899, the house and its outbuildings were bequeathed to Jean Girardon, her nephew, who in 1920 sold it to Paul Lepercq, owner of a weaving factory in northern France and a soap factory in Marseille. To connect it with the Ecole des petits clercs ("School of legal clerks") an aerial metal footbridge – which still exists today - was built above the Montée de la Butte.