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A friend of Carlo Guadagni asked him why the Guadagni did not have a family chapel in the Church of Santo Spirito, in Florence, which is so close to the famous Guadagni Palace. This is the answer:

The Palazzo Guadagni of Piazza Santo Spirito was built in 1502 by a Florentine merchant, Ranieri Dei. He decided to replace some of his family's existing buildings with one that would be grander and more imposing and thus more worthy of the family presence in Florence. The palace became the most copied and imitated palace in Florence and is considered the most classic type of the Florentine Renaissance Palace (states Marquis Leonardo Ginori in his book: "I Palazzi Fiorentini"). It was made after a drawing of the famous architect Baccio d'Agnolo. The Dei Family also built for themselves a beautiful chapel, still existing today with their family crest on it, in the church of Santo Spirito, a few yards from their palace.

In 1683, Marquis Donato Maria Guadagni bought the above mentioned Dei palace and it has remained in the Family ever since, always known as palazzo Guadagni. In 1837, Ottavia Guadagni, only child of Neri Guadagni, married Marquis Odoardo Massimiliano Dufour-Berte. At her father's death she inherited the palace and at her death it was inherited by her descendants Dufour-Berte. The Dufour-Berte, who were cousins and great friends of my mother Isabella Guadagni, and whom I personally know, still live in an apartment in the palace itself.

The Guadagni also owned three other large palaces, all before the buying of the Dei Palace of Santo Spirito. The Guadagni Chapel, with a beautiful fresco of the Resurrection of Christ by the famous Renaissance artist Bronzino was bought by the Brothers Iacopo (ancestor of all the actual Guadagni) and Filippo Guadagni (ancestor of all the actual Torrigiani) in 1541 in the church of Santissima Annunziata in Piazza Santissima Annunziata, Florence. It is on the left side of the main altar of the church, and the Guadagni crest is visible on top of its entrance. The church of Santissima Annunziata, is closer to the Guadagni palace of via Martelli and to their palace in piazza del Duomo (that used to be owned by Pietro Guadagni who adopted the Torrigiani name and fortune). The Santissima Annunziata Guadagni chapel remains the family chapel and our uncle Adriano Guadagni celebrated his First Communion in that chapel.

The third other large Guadagni palace was also owned by Pietro Guadagni and became known as Palazzo Torrigiani when Pietro Guadagni adopted the Torrigiani surname. It is located in Lungarno Torrigiani.

Thank you,
Francesco