

DECLARING THE CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN BACLAYON, BOHOL A NATIONAL HISTORICAL LANDMARK.

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines states that "The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources...;"

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 260, dated August 1, 1973, specifically vested the National Historical Commission, now the National Historical Institute, a cultural agency under the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, and an affiliated institution of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the power to declare historical and cultural sites and edifices as National Shrines, Monuments, and/or Landmarks;

WHEREAS, in 1595 the earliest missionaries in the island of Bohol, Fr. Gabriel Sanchez and Fr. Juan de Torres of the Society of Jesus, brought the Catholic religion to Baclayon;

WHEREAS, Baclayon was raised to the status of a parish in 1717, and in 1727, a stone church was built, which remains standing today;

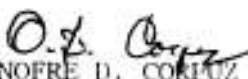
WHEREAS, after the expulsion of the Jesuits from the Philippines in 1768, Baclayon, like the other missions founded by the Jesuits in Bohol, was ceded to the Augustinian Recollects;

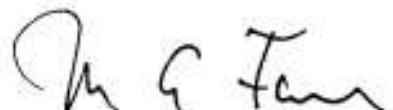
WHEREAS, Baclayon Church, together with its bell tower and convent, served as a lookout and a fortress against the Muslim raids during the Spanish regime;

WHEREAS, Baclayon Church is one of the well-preserved churches in Bohol province, whose architecture is a combination of Jesuit and Recollect ingenuity and native craftsmanship;


NOW, THEREFORE, the National Historical Institute, by virtue of the powers vested in it by Presidential Decree No. 260, dated August 1, 1978, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 1505, dated June 11, 1978, hereby declares the Baclayon Church in Baclayon, Bohol, as a National Historical Landmark.

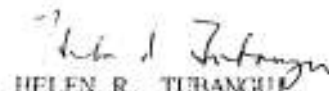
APPROVED: July 27, 1994


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