



NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

RESOLUTION NO. 09 S. 2008

DECLARING THE CHURCH, CONVENT AND THE SITE OF THE BEATERIO OF SABTANG, PROVINCE OF BATANES A NATIONAL HISTORICAL LANDMARK

WHEREAS, under Section 16, Article XII (National Economy and Patrimony), of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines provides that "All the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition";

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 260 dated August 1, 1973, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 1505, dated June 11, 1978 specifically vested the National Historical Institute with the power to declare sites and structures as national historical landmarks;

WHEREAS, the church of Sabtang was first established as a chapel by the Dominican missionaries in 1785 and built as a church made of lime and stone by Fr. Gumersindo Hernandez, O.P. in 1844;

WHEREAS, the Church became a self-supporting community with lay workers called beatos providing for the sustenance and support for the parish of Sabtang;

WHEREAS, the homes of the beatos exist as part of the church complex which includes the church edifice and the convent and were built using native materials and were of the style of the houses of the inhabitants;

WHEREAS, much of the original structure of the Church and Convent withstood the ravages of time and the homes of the beatos still stand as ruins;


WHEREAS, the Church, Convent and the ruins of the beaterio are a living testimony of the way of life of the people during the Spanish period and to the artistry, craftsmanship and ingenuity of its builders and are some of the few surviving Spanish colonial structures in Batanes and in the Philippines;

NOW THEREFORE, the National Historical Institute, by virtue vested in it by Presidential Decree 260 as amended by Presidential Decree No. 1505, hereby declares the Church, Convent, the ruins of the beaterio located at the back thereof, and the church property where they are located, a National Historical Landmark.

Approved: July 9, 2008

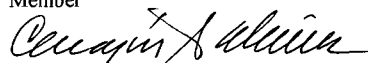

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