

**CULTURAL MAPPING OF THE QUEZON NATATORIUM
IN BONGABON, NUEVA ECIJA**

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THESIS ABSTRACT

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7. Abstract:

7.1 Rationale/Background

Cultural heritage which has evolved to be an asset of the cities in terms of economic development, has a significant impact on the growth of internal tourism (Ismagilova et al., 2015). This may also be the case for the municipality of Bongabon since it also has various heritage properties, including the Quezon Natatorium. However, the only missing aspect is further documentation on these properties, particularly in the Quezon Natatorium, so that they can be utilized

further for tourism and other development efforts. Thus, this study aims to identify the Quezon Natatorium's significance in Philippine history, which can only be achieved through the process of cultural mapping.

7.2 Summary

The researcher used a non-random method, specifically a purposeful sampling strategy to select the sample of participants. The researcher also used the interview as a research instrument in order to collect in-depth information on the key informants' opinions, thoughts, or even experiences towards the Quezon natatorium. Moreover, the researcher used thematic analysis in this study to collect, to transcribe, investigate, and interpret the underlying themes such as the aesthetic, historical, social, political, economic, and spiritual significance of the Quezon Natatorium in Philippine history.

7.3 Major Findings

Based on the findings of the study, the Quezon Natatorium is a natural bathing pool donated by Manuel L. Quezon to Bongabon-Baler National Park (Aurora Memorial National Park) during the Commonwealth period. It served as a recreational facility and summer resort in the past, where Manuel L. Quezon, his wife Doña Aurora Aragon Quezon, and a number of their political associates would frequently visit when traveling to Baler. And during the years 1935–1940, it also served as a refreshment stop and sanctuary for the workers who constructed the

Nueva Ecija–Aurora National Road. Today, the Quezon Natatorium is well-known as a site where tourists, travelers, and locals can rest, relax, take pictures, and picnic.

7.4 Conclusions

The Quezon Natatorium is consistently at risk of deterioration due to the lack of awareness in the local community and the neglect of both the citizens and the local government. In addition to these, the historic structure may deteriorate or, in the worst-case scenario, be completely forgotten, mainly because of the lack of preservation that is deeply rooted in the conflict within its jurisdiction.

7.5 Recommendations

The efforts of the Protected Area and Management Board, the local government of Bongabon, the local government of Maria Aurora, the living descendants of Manuel L. Quezon or BANAK Inc., the locals, and other organizations working in the field of cultural heritage should be united in order to develop a strategic plan for preserving, restoring, and promoting the Quezon Natatorium.

8. Translated Abstract (Filipino)

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AMNP: Aurora Memorial National Park

BANAK: Baler Aurora Ngayon Angkan at Kasaysayan

DENR: Department of Energy and Natural Resources

ICC: Indigenous Cultural Community

ICOMOS: International Council on Monuments and Sites

IPMR: Indigenous People Mandatory Representative

LGU: Local Government Unit

MENRO: Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office

NCCA: National Commission for Culture and the Arts

PAMB: Protected Area and Management Board

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

YMCA: The Young Men's Christian Association

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