

**RESOLUTION NO. 1, S. 2003**

**DECLARING THE MANILA HOTEL ON ROXAS BOULEVARD, MANILA  
A NATIONAL HISTORICAL LANDMARK**

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Philippines provides that "The State shall 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 Institute, an institution under the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, with the authority and duty to conserve and protect the historical and cultural heritage of the country;

WHEREAS, in 1908 Thomas L. Hartigan, Charles D. Palmer, M.F. Loewenstein, E.C. McCullough, M.A. Clarke, Mauro Prieto, Walter E. Olsen, Francisco Ortigas, and Jose F. Fernandez, incorporators of the Manila Hotel Company, conceived a hotel in Manila that would efficiently serve guests;

WHEREAS, Architect William E. Parsons designed the hotel on a 20,500 square meter site designated by Daniel H. Burnham at the northern end of the Luneta along Manila Bay;

WHEREAS, the cornerstone was laid on September 1, 1910 by the United States Secretary of War Jacob M. Dickinson in ceremonies attended by Governor General William Cameron Forbes and the city's most respected citizens;

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1912, this "Aristocrat of the Orient" was inaugurated. It was the finest hotel during the American Period, the first in Asia to be installed with electrically operated elevators, and the most modern amenities;

WHEREAS, the Manila Hotel served as the home of Douglas MacArthur from 1935-1941;

WHEREAS, Andres Luna de San Pedro and Jose G. Cortes designed and built the MacArthur penthouse and air-conditioned annex of the hotel from 1936 to 1937;

WHEREAS, during World War II, the hotel became the headquarters of the Japanese Military Administration, with the MacArthur penthouse serving as temporary home to Japanese Premier Hideki Tojo and General Tomoyuki Yamashita, and the site of fierce fighting during the battle for Manila in 1945;

WHEREAS, in post-war Philippines, the Manila Hotel was the venue of the Constitutional Convention of 1971;

WHEREAS, the Manila Hotel was renovated in 1975 by Architect Leandro V. Locsin, declared National Artist for Architecture in 1990, and re-inaugurated in 1977 and stands to this day as an example of early twentieth century architecture in the country;

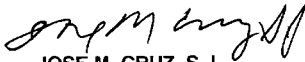
WHEREAS, the Manila Hotel, as the oldest, functioning hotel in the country, has played host to a large number of world leaders, important personalities, and eminent visitors;

WHEREAS, on February 3, 1997 the Supreme Court of the Philippines recognized that the Manila Hotel is a historical landmark and a reflection of the Filipino soul – a place with a history of grandeur and a most historical setting that has played a part in the shaping of a country, and therefore ruled that it should not be sold to foreigners being a part of national patrimony;

NOW, THEREFORE, the National Historical Institute, by virtue of the powers vested in it by Presidential Decree No. 260, dated August 1, 1973, hereby declares the MANILA HOTEL, a National Historical Landmark.

Approved: March 31, 2003

  
AMBETH R. OCAMPO  
Chairman

  
JOSE M. CRUZ, S.J.  
Member

  
HEIDI K. GLORIA  
Member

SERAFIN D. QUIASON  
Member

  
CORAZON S. ALVINA  
Ex-Officio Member

  
PRUDENCIANA C. CRUZ  
Ex-Officio Member