

File Name: 502rev.pdf

UNESCO Region: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

SITE NAME: The Historic town of Vigan

DATE OF INSCRIPTION: 4th December 1999

STATE PARTY: PHILIPPINES

CRITERIA: C(ii) (iv)

DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE:

Excerpt from the Report of the 23rd Session of the World Heritage Committee

The Committee inscribed the property on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iv):

Criterion (ii): Vigan represents a unique fusion of Asian building design and construction with European colonial architecture and planning.

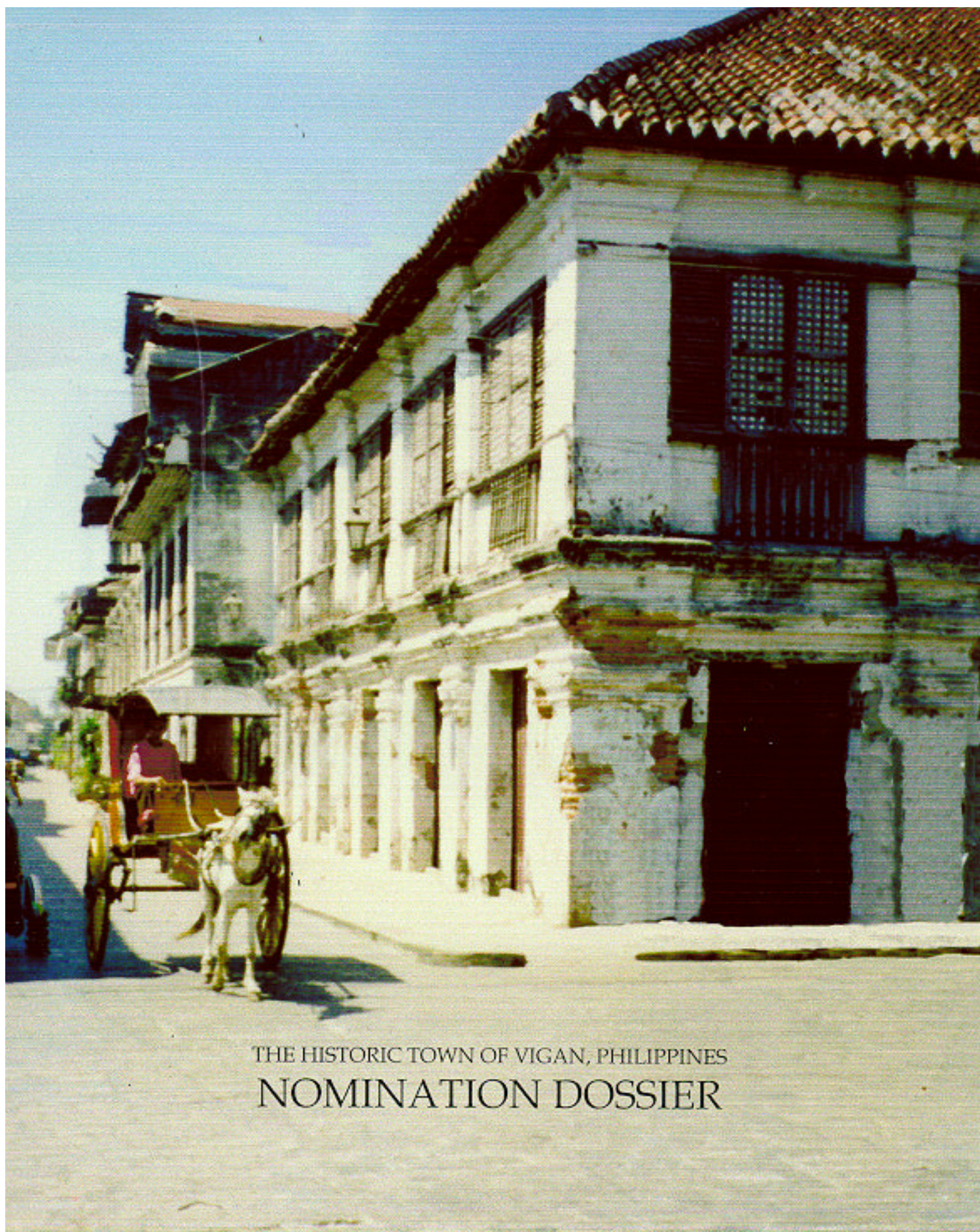
Criterion (iv): Vigan is an exceptionally intact and well-preserved example of a European trading town in East and South-East Asia.

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

Vigan, established in the 16th century, is the best-preserved example of a planned Spanish colonial town in Asia. Its architecture reflects the coming together of cultural elements from elsewhere in the Philippines and from China with those of Europe to create a unique culture and townscape without parallel anywhere in East and Southeast Asia.

1.b State, Province or Region: Province of Ilocos Sur

1.d Exact location: 17° 34' N, 120° 23' E



THE HISTORIC TOWN OF VIGAN, PHILIPPINES
NOMINATION DOSSIER

THE NOMINATION DOSSIER FOR
THE HISTORIC TOWN OF VIGAN

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NOMINATION OF PROPERTIES FOR INCLUSION IN THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROPERTY

a) Country:

Philippines

b) Province:

Ilocos Sur

c) Municipality:

Municipality of Vigan

d) Name of Property:

THE HISTORIC TOWN OF VIGAN

e) Exact location on Map:

The exact location of Vigan is at 120° 23' 15" east longitude and the parallel 17° 34' 30" north latitude.

Located in the Province of Ilocos Sur, situated close to the northeast tip of Luzón Island, the principal island in the Philippine archipelago, Vigan is 408 kilometers northeast of Manila. It is easily accessible by land from Manila, being situated along the main north-south national highway that follows the eastern shore of Luzón Island. A major transportation hub for the region, all bus routes travelling northeast from Manila stop at Vigan.

The closest commercial airport is the Laoag International Airport in the neighboring province of Ilocos Norte, 80 kilometers to the north of Vigan. The other airports in the region are those at Baguio City and San Fernando, La Union Province.

List of Maps:

Map 1: National map locating Ilocos Sur and Vigan

Map 2: Province of Ilocos Sur

Map 3: Province of Ilocos Sur, Hierarchy of Urban Centers

Map 4: Municipality of Vigan, Land Use Map showing Historic Center

Map 5: Municipality of Vigan, showing the Boundaries of Core Zone and Buffer Zone

Map 6: Census of Buildings

f) Area of Property Proposed for Inscription

Please refer to Map 5 that shows the boundaries of the Core Zone and Buffer Zone of Vigan.

The approximate area of the Historic Core is 17.25 hectares; that of the Buffer Zone is 12.75 hectares. The total area of the Municipality of Vigan is 2740 hectares (27.4 square kilometers).

2. JUSTIFICATION FOR INSCRIPTION

a) Statement of Significance

Vigan is unique among Philippine towns and cities because it is the country's most extensive and only surviving historic town that dates from the 18th century Spanish colonial era. It is an urban center of remarkable visual and architectural unity.

The factors that establish the homogeneity in Vigan are:

- Vigan, part of the 18th and 19th century network of Asian trading cities, responds to the vigorous exchange of ideas brought by

commerce through demonstrating an architecture that fuses Ilocano, Filipino, Chinese, and Spanish influences. Vigan also exhibits architecture from the American colonial period in the early 20th century that fuses the Filipino with the American.

- The ensemble expresses the adaptation of the diverse cultural influences into a homogeneous urban landscape, and into an architectural style that is uniquely Filipino.
- It is the most evident and only surviving example in the Philippines that shows Spanish urban planning of the early 18th century that conforms to the *Ley de las Indias* that regulates the layout, street patterns, and open spaces of all new settlements planned during the Spanish empire.
- In the Philippines, the Vigan ensemble is only remaining and the most extensive concentration of civic, religious and traditional residential architecture built during the 18th and 19th centuries.

The architecture of Vigan is an important testimony for understanding the mixture of diverse cultural elements that marks contemporary Philippine culture. In recognition of its historic values and the undeniable merit of its artistic, architectural and urban design, the Historic Town of Vigan has the status of being a unique monument.¹

In the national history of the Philippines, Vigan has played an important role. It was the center of the Basi Revolt (1807) and the Ilocos Revolt (1762-63) led by Diego and Gabriela Silang. It was the birthplace of Fr José Burgos whose martyrdom polarized the revolution against the Spanish.

Other historic personalities are Leona Florentino, the first Filipina poetess be internationally acclaimed.

¹ Tourconsult/International: "Conservation Plan for the Historical Center of Vigan," Commission of the European Union, 1995.

Her son, Isabelo de los Reyes, founded the Philippine labor movement.

The Second President of the Philippine Republic, Elpidio Quirino, was born in Vigan where he lived for a major part of his life. He began his political career there.

b) Possible Comparative Analysis

Vigan belongs to the 18th and 19th century network of Asian trading cities whose lifestyle and architecture blend Asian and western culture: Malacca, Penang, Pekalongan, Goa, Macau, Singapore, and Hoi-An (Vietnam). In contrast to those cities, however, Vigan shows a distinctly Filipino approach in adapting to the current of architectural concepts flowing throughout Asia in that era.

Hoi-An in Vietnam, an important coastal trading post during the Asian mercantile area from the 14th – 19th centuries, is similar to Vigan. Both towns have shophouses, although in Hoi-An the houses are smaller than those in Vigan. The structures were built to house the same functions: commercial on the ground level and residential above. These structures are heavily influenced by the urban Chinese and Japanese lifestyle.

Because of the rigid gridiron street pattern that radiates from its central plaza, Vigan has strong urban links to many of the settlements built in Latin America during the era of the Spanish empire, when the layout of all new towns was controlled by the Ley de las Indias.

In the Philippines, Vigan is the most extensive and is the best-preserved historic city in the country. A large amount of the original fabric of the city remains intact, although its future survival is threatened.

Remembering that Vigan has survived the ravages of natural disasters (cyclical typhoons, earthquakes) and World War II, a great number of the remaining buildings and houses are still sturdy enough to be

inhabited. Much of the original architectural, structural and decorative elements are in place, assuring that the threatened but surviving tissue of Vigan is indeed authentic in design, material, workmanship, and setting.

In the Philippines today, no other town compares with Vigan for the number of surviving structures built in the Spanish colonial and American eras that remain in an urban grid of streets dating from the Spanish colonial era.

A similar urban grid exists in fortified Intramuros of Manila, the former Spanish government center for the Philippines. However, the original fortifications (now fully reconstructed) and the authentic architecture (a few structures have been recently rebuilt) within the walls were destroyed during World War II. Only the Church of San Agustín (World Heritage Site) survived intact.

Cebú, the second most important city during the Spanish era, was likewise destroyed during World War II. None of its Spanish colonial heritage remains.

Vigan, the third most important city of the 18th and 19th centuries, is the only settlement that survives. It is the last remaining site in the Philippines that shows urban planning and architecture that reflects the fusion of different cultural imprints on the Filipino heritage. Above all, it is the only enduring example of Spanish urban planning with authentic 18th, 19th and early 20th century architecture existing in a landscape that continues to show traces of its original setting. Vigan was built on an island surrounded by rivers that have since dried. A causeway still links Vigan to the principal highway from Manila that passes through Bantay, the neighboring town.

Vigan is the most extensive living example of the interaction of Ilocano, Filipino, Chinese, Spanish, and Mexican architecture in Asia.

c) Authenticity/Integrity

The Nara Document on Authenticity states: “11. All judgements about values attributed to cultural properties as well as the credibility of related information sources may differ from culture to culture ... [I]t is thus not possible to base judgements of values and authenticity within fixed criteria ... heritage properties must be considered and judged within the cultural contexts to which they belong.”

ICOMOS Expert Dr Jorge Gazaneo² concurs with the statement from the Nara Document. During his visit to the Philippines in 1992, he said, “In our case the difficulty in evaluating these buildings properly lies in using the right parameters, which, as already stated, cannot be those used for European examples. Unity and authenticity are difficult to be expected in this part of the world, a violent frontier knowing the ravages of war, heavy typhoons, and repeated, violent earthquake destruction.”

Gazaneo further states, “No [Philippine] monument is a complete example of one art period, but a living document of how time and context have left traces on the early founding intentions of the original designer-builder ... on the crossroads of different cultures -- Malay, Chinese, European, American (Mexico-Peru) - - the architecture and art of the Philippines should be valued on standards different from those developed by European scholars ... An architectural evaluation of ... the Philippine Hispanic period varies depending on what criteria or comparisons are used.”

The consciousness of maintaining authenticity in Vigan is slowly taking hold. There now exists more care in construction work. Conservation workshops held in Vigan have increased the awareness that conservation is best done using traditional materials and methods of construction. The practice of going back to traditional methods is slowly beginning to take effect in Vigan, assuring an authenticity in materials and workmanship.

² Gazaneo, Jorge, ICOMOS Report of 1992

d) Criteria Under Which Inscription is Proposed

Criterion (ii): “exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts or town-planning and landscape design.” Vigan, part of the 18th and 19th century network of Asian trading cities, demonstrates a unique architecture that effortlessly fuses Ilocano, Filipino, Chinese, and Spanish influences. It also demonstrates, in a tropical, Asian setting rather than in the New World, the typical Spanish colonial urban layout as specified by the *Ley de las Indias*, thus linking Vigan to another network of colonial cities in Latin America.

Criterion (iii): “bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.” Vigan is testimony to the Filipino cultural traditions and lifestyle of the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. Its domestic architecture, allowing business to be conducted in the ground floor and the family to reside above, reflects deep kinship with its Asian neighbors, where entrepreneurs preferred to live and work out of their houses. The lifestyle gave rise to streets lined with shophouses, similar to the rows of Vigan houses that stand next to each other along the narrow streets. The urban ensemble of Vigan is a group of buildings that, because of its architecture, its homogeneity, its place in and relationship to the landscape, is truly of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history and art.

Criterion (iv): “be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates a significant change in human history.” The architecture of Vigan is truly reflective of its roots. It is built from the wood, stone, shells (*kapis*), and terra cotta gathered from its surroundings. The houses are in the traditional *bahay na bato* style, where the ground floor is covered with

stone walls and the upper level is constructed entirely out of wood. A variant to the style exists in Vigan where both stories of some houses are built entirely of stone or brick.

Criterion (v): “be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement or land-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures) especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.” Vigan is well known in the Philippines as the last urban area that has maintained its architecture and urban planing that was established during the Spanish colonial era. Modernization and progress are pressuring the transformation of many structures in the historic Core Zone as well as the Buffer Zone. However, Vigan is determined to maintain its authenticity.

3. DESCRIPTION

a) Description of Property:

Since its founding, Vigan was the political, commercial, religious, and educational center of Ilocos Sur. In the 1920's its territorial boundaries were diminished. Its northern territory became the province of Ilocos Norte and its southwestern territory became Abra province. Today it is the seat of the provincial government of Ilocos Sur province and where most of the national government agencies maintain provincial offices.

The land area of the municipality (27.4 square kilometers) is divided into 9 urban *poblaciones* (neighborhoods) and 30 rural *barangays* (villages). 13.0 square kilometers (47.44% of the total land area) within the municipal boundaries remain rural and are used for agriculture.³

Its topography is flat. No part within the municipal boundaries exceeds an altitude of 70 meters. The

³ Annex 1: Favis, Ricardo L., “Avante Vigan” Conference: *Situationer on Local Industries*, 1997

Mestizo River bounds it on the east. The Govantes and Bantay Rivers define the northern boundary.

Its population in 1986 was 35,994. In 1995, the total revenue of the municipality was approximately P32,500,000 with a population of 41,540. In 1997 the municipal revenue rose to P52,000,000.

Agriculture is the primary industry of Vigan, directly supporting 994 households. The Vigan public market is a major trading center, where most of the produce from the neighboring municipalities of Caoayan, Bantay, San Vicente, and Santa Catalina is sold.

Vigan is a regional educational center. Its more notable institutions are St Paul's College of Vigan (formerly the *Escuela de Niñas* opened in 1892). The Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepción was founded in 1925 by the Society of the Divine World. Later the school expanded into the Divine Word College. The University of Northern Philippines is also in Vigan.

In response to the shortage of priests in the Ilocos region, the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia constructed a seminary to train secular priests. Built in 1822 and situated beside the Cathedral, the seminary was the biggest building in the town. It completely burned in 1968. The institution also provided elementary and secondary education for residents of Vigan.

Vigan evolved a unique and rich cultural tradition of its own in the areas of architecture, literature, craft, cuisine, and fashion. The cultural development of the region revolves around Vigan. Ilocanos, the third largest linguistic group in the Philippines, recognize Vigan as the center of their culture.

There are four museums in the town: Burgos House (National Museum), Museo Nueva Segovia, the Crisologo Museum, and the President Quirino Museum scheduled to open later this year at the SyQuía Mansion.

The historical Core Zone⁴ protects the Mestizo District and includes Plazas Salcedo and Burgos at the northern boundary of the town. It is protected by a Buffer Zone around it. It is noteworthy to mention that the boundaries run at the center of the blocks, following the rear walls of the properties rather than at the center of the streets. This method insures the maintenance of the integrity of the streetscape.⁵ Approximately 187 historic houses will be within the new Core and Buffer Zone boundaries.

No inventory of houses was taken for the 1987 Nomination. In 1996, the Toyota Foundation financed an inventory of 120 houses.⁶

Vigan is laid out in the traditional Spanish urban grid. A checkerboard of streets opens to a central plaza where the seats of government and religion are located at opposite ends of the main plaza.

However, in Vigan a variation on the traditional Hispanic Plaza occurs. The two plazas join: the larger of the two, Plaza Salcedo forms an L-shaped space with the smaller Plaza Burgos as the shorter leg of the "L". The Municipal Hall and the Provincial Capitol dominate Plaza Salcedo. The Cathedral is the focus of Plaza Burgos. This novel solution diplomatically assigns equal importance to both civic and religious authority.

The street grid pierces the entire Mestizo District with broad axial views towards the town plaza that are framed by rows of houses. The views take in but do not stop at the focal points at the plazas (the Municipal Building, the Provincial Capitol, and the Vigan Cathedral) but continue past the architectural focal points, ending beyond municipal boundaries at the distant foothills of the Cordillera mountain range.

The architecture is built of natural materials: terra cotta, wood, *kapis* (*Placuna placenta*) shells, stone, and

⁴ Map ___: Core and Buffer Zones

⁵ Annex 2: Michelmore, David, *Report on a Mission to Vigan*, 1997

⁶ Rabang, Fatima Alonso, *An Inventory of 120 Houses in Vigan, Ilocos Sur*, Toyota Foundation Grant, 1996

lime, that were once gathered from its immediate surroundings, bonding the structures to the landscape around them. Reinforcing the bond further, the triangular façade of the Cathedral and the steeply pitched terra cotta roofs echo the powerful forms of the distant Cordillera Mountains that are visible from almost all points of the town.

The architecture of the typical Vigan house is derived from the traditional Filipino dwelling, the *bahay kubo*, is a small one-room hut built of light, woven materials (wood, bamboo, and thatch), raised off the ground on stilts for ventilation and for protection from seasonal monsoon floods. The space underneath the dwelling was left open.

The much larger *bahay na bato* (stone house) as seen in Vigan is an outgrowth of the *bahay kubo*. The *bahay na bato* is of two stories, solidly enclosed with stone walls on the ground level for protection. Its second level is constructed completely out wood. Its terra cotta tile roof is steeply pitched, reminiscent of Chinese roofs.⁷

The exterior walls of the family quarters on the second level were enclosed with sliding window panels of *kapis* shells framed in wood, reminiscent of the *shoji* panels found in Japanese houses. Upon sliding the panels open, the outer walls disappear completely, allowing light and air to freely enter within. The family quarters opened with complete freedom to the air and sky, in contrast to the enclosed, sturdy, and forbidding stone-clad ground floor where the family business was conducted and goods were stored.

The architectural details of the *bahay na bato* harmoniously combine Filipino, Chinese, and Spanish influences, all skillfully adapted to the tropical environment and to the Filipino lifestyle. During the American era in the early 20th century, residential architecture 'Filipinized' American influences to the tropical environment.

⁷ Michelmore

The houses in Vigan, all in the *bahay na bato* style, have similar proportions (height, massing, and roof shape), share related architectural detailing, and are built of the same materials (terra cotta, wood, and brick covered in lime plaster). Sited at the edges of their properties, a solid wall of houses covered by steeply pitched roofs frame the narrow streets.

With houses built with the same materials, in a similar style, and within a definite time frame between the 18th and 19th centuries, the streetscape in Vigan presents an outstanding visual and stylistic homogeneity.

The urban ensemble of Vigan tells the history of the town. It shows that it was once the political, economic, religious, and artistic center of the region. It has lost its political and economic influence but continues to exert a strong cultural influence to the rest of the nation.

Most importantly, the architecture of Vigan relates the story of the Filipino. His constant exposure to foreign influences has endowed him with the ability to adapt foreign ideas, combining them into a style that is uniquely Filipino. Adaptation has always been a Filipino strength, evident in his contemporary lifestyle of apparent dichotomies. Having a Spanish name, he speaks English fluently. A devout Christian, he is nevertheless Asian in appearance and spirit. Despite the cultural contrasts he exists with, beyond any doubt he identifies himself as a Filipino.

The surviving urban fabric of Vigan is a unique representation of the adaptation process that the multi-cultural Filipino continually undergoes. Vigan represents a fusion of the Ilocano, the Filipino, the Chinese, the Latin, and the American. In the spirit of Filipino adaptation, the ensemble is true Filipino.

The urban ensemble of Vigan is a group of buildings that, because of its architecture, its homogeneity, its place in and relationship to the landscape, is truly of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history and art.

The following is a listing of the significant public structures built from the Spanish and American colonial periods that are mostly in the vicinity of the Vigan plaza:

- Saint Paul's Cathedral, 1790-1800: A good example of Christian architecture fused with Filipino and Chinese design elements. Its pagoda-like belltower is built a distance away from the low, triangular façade for earthquake protection.
- The Arzobispado, 1783: Flanking one side of the large Plaza Salcedo, it is long, low, structure, capped with an enormous, high-pitched roof. It is an excellent example of a priest's residence in an urban area that combines parish offices in the ground floor and spacious living quarters on the upper level.
- Saint Paul's College (formerly the *Escuela de Niñas*), 1892: Standing next to the Arzobispado, it completes the long façade on one side of Plaza Salcedo that is begun by the Arzobispado. It is built with the same long, low lines as the Arzobispado.
- Provincial Capitol Building: built during the American colonial period in the early 20th century, the colonnaded central block of the Palladian revival building anchors a pair of symmetrical wings that extend outwards.
- Simbaan a Bassit (Catholic Cemetery Chapel), 1852: The small structure is a jewel, one of the few extant examples in the country of a baroque-style façade crowned with an *espadaña*, openings at the top of the façade from which bells are hung.

The pre-publication draft of *Vigan: An Architectural Walking Tour*⁸ (Nicolo del Castillo, 1998) attached as

⁸Annex 2: Castillo, Nicolo, 1998, *Vigan: An Architectural Walking Tour* (pre-publication draft)

an Annex provides not only an excellent description but also communicates the spatial feel of the architecture and urban planning of Vigan.

b) History and Development

In 1572, the Spanish Conquistador Juan de Salcedo founded "Villa Fernandina." Located on an island in the Abra River delta, it is along the coastal plain of the China Sea close to the northeastern tip of Luzon Island.

Upon his appointment as the Lieutenant Governor or *Encomendero* of the entire Ilocos Region, Salcedo made Vigan his capital, the center of political and economic power in the region.

In 1758, the seat of the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia transferred to Vigan, making it the regional center of religious activity. In 1778, its expansion into a city, Vigan was re-named "Ciudad Fernandina."

Established as a trading center rather than as a fortress, Vigan was the northernmost city established by the Spanish in the Philippines. It ranked third in size, political power, and economic significance among the cities founded during the Spanish colonial era (1521-1898). The two other cities are Cebú and Manila.

The name "Vigan" was derived from "*bigaa*," a giant taro plant (*Alocasia macrorrhiza* [Linnaeus] Schott) that grows abundantly along the banks of the Mestizo River.⁹

The Mestizo River was central in the development of trade and community activities in Vigan during the 16th to the 19th centuries. Large sea-going vessels berthed at its delta. Smaller craft sailed upriver to the inland towns region. Because of sedimentation, the present Mestizo River is no longer navigable today.

⁹Annex 3: Vigan World Heritage Nomination Dossier

Originally, Vigan was a triangular shaped island separated by rivers from the mainland, reached by a causeway crossing the Govantes River from neighboring Bantay town on the Ilocos Sur mainland. The rivers have silted over. It is no longer an island today.

As the major trading center of the region, produce from the region was traded with goods brought directly to Vigan from China. Participating in the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade that lasted throughout the entire Spanish colonial era, it supplied some of the goods shipped across the Pacific to Mexico that were transshipped across the Atlantic to Spain and to the rest of Europe. Thick hand-woven cotton textile from Vigan was prized and acknowledged by sailors as the most durable sails available for the galleons.

Because of Vigan's trade links with China from pre-Hispanic times, there was a constant exchange of people and foreign influences between the Ilocanos, Filipinos, Chinese, Spanish, and in the early 20th century, the Americans.

The built environment reflected the exposure to and assimilation of different ideas. The urban plan of Vigan follows the Renaissance-style grid specified by the *Ley de las Indias*¹⁰ for all new towns of the Spanish Empire. Its similar street layout to other Latin towns visually and spatially relates Vigan to the spirit of the Spanish Empire.

A noticeable difference exists, however, between Vigan and the other towns built in the New World in Latin America. The difference is evident in the "Mestizo" District of Vigan where the Latin tradition meets with the Chinese, the Filipino, and the Ilocano.¹¹ The district derives its name from the affluent families of Chinese-Ilocano descent who live there.

¹⁰ Annex 4: Ziálcita, Fernando N., *Concept Paper: Second International Conference on Vigan*, 1997

¹¹ Ziálcita

Historically, the Chinese presence has always been strong. China is an easy sail from the Ilocos coast. Trading with China before the Hispanic era, a great number of Chinese settled in Vigan, influencing the local lifestyle greatly.

Despite the obvious Latin-Christian overlay to the local culture, the patterns of daily life, business practices, and architecture all reflect the dominant Chinese influence¹² that reinforces the values of frugality, hard work, and entrepreneurship.

Following Chinese lifestyle traditions, Vigan entrepreneurs conducted their businesses from the ground floor of their homes, where an office and, when necessary, a warehouse was found. The family quarters were above the working area. All of the houses in the Mestizo District are designed in this manner, comparable to the shophouses that survive in other Asian cities like Penang, Pekalongan, Singapore, and older sections of Bangkok.

No written documentation exists to provide specific construction details. However, oral history states that most of the houses were built by unknown traditional craftsmen in the mid 18th to late 19th centuries, a period of abundance for Vigan.

Although in varying states of conservation, some homes remain close to their original condition today. The traditional residential and commercial functions continue in a few of the surviving houses.

However, very few houses remain untouched. Changes introduced to the better-conserved houses have been to the interior: subdividing the large living quarters into smaller apartments, and adjusting of ground floor to provide spaces to let out for commercial use. After having been completely altered to allow new uses, many structures have lost their authenticity. A few structures have been abandoned, neglected, and left to decay.

¹² Ziálcita

The owners of many of the surviving houses have migrated to other urban areas, leaving caretakers to watch their homes or have leased portions of their structures for professional or business purposes.

c) Form and Date of Most Recent Records of Property

A summary of records of the property is as follows:

The 1991 World Heritage Nomination¹³ documents contain an inventory of a few sections of Vigan.

The 1995 “Conservation Plan for the Historical Center of Vigan¹⁴ includes a survey and analysis maps of the site.

In 1996, Archt. Fatima Rabang Alonso completed the “Inventory of 120 Vigan Ancestral Houses.”

d) Present State of Conservation

As background information, the 1991 World Heritage Nomination Dossier outlines the state of conservation as it existed at that time in some Vigan properties.

The “Conservation Plan for the Historical Center of Vigan,” furnishes the following information regarding the 188 historic structures that still survive in Vigan:

- State of conservation: 86 structures are good, and 84 structures are in a mediocre to poor state of conservation;
- Roof tile covering: 10 structures have original tile roofing in good condition, and 18 structures are in mediocre to poor state of conservation;
- Brick and Masonry construction (entire structure): 130 structures;

¹³ Annex 3

¹⁴ Tourconsult/International

- Brick and Masonry construction with upper floor in timber: 56 structures.

The degradation of structures is manifested in: subsidence with cracks on load-bearing walls; rising damp in masonry walls; chipping of plaster covering of original masonry; deterioration and disappearance of exterior decorative elements in masonry or wood; degradation of wooden roof trusses; replacement of terra cotta roof tiles with corrugated galvanized iron sheets.

The “Inventory of 120 Vigan Ancestral Houses” presents a good overview of the state of the structures in 1996, a basis for future reference.

e) Policies and Programmes Related to the Presentation and Promotion of the Property

The Philippine government, as evidenced by the existing national and municipal legislation to protect the site, is committed to the preservation of the Historic Town of Vigan.

Programs of the Department of Tourism, National Museum, National Historical Institute, and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts focus on the preservation of various aspects of the unique cultural heritage of Vigan.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts is concentrating on a series of awareness programs and skills training workshops to increase the level of awareness to conservation and to improve the level of skills and technical proficiency for the conservation of Vigan.

The national government has set up the Vigan Heritage Commission with the mandate to coordinate the conservation programs for Vigan.

4. MANAGEMENT

a) Ownership

The ownership of the collection of buildings and open spaces in the Historic Center of Vigan and its Buffer Zone is mixed.

The major public buildings in Vigan are owned by the Provincial Government of Ilocos Sur, the Municipal Government of Vigan and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia (Vigan).

All of the houses in the historic Core and Buffer Zones of Vigan are privately owned.

b) Legal Status

Vigan is protected by the following existing protective, legal, and administrative measures:

National:

- Republic Act 4846¹⁵ (1966) Presidential Decree No. 374¹⁶, (1974): "Amending certain sections of Republic Act No. 4846, Otherwise known as the Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act"
- Presidential Decree No. 756¹⁷, (1975): "Amending Presidential Decree No. 260 to include the Mestizo Section, the houses of Padre José Burgos and Leona Florentino in its Scope"
- Presidential Decree No. 1505¹⁸ (1978): "Amending Presidential Decree No. 260, as amended, by Prohibiting the Unauthorized Modification, Alteration, Repair, and Destruction of Original Features of all National

¹⁵ Annex 5

¹⁶ Annex 6

¹⁷ Annex 7

¹⁸ Annex 8

Shrines, Monuments, Landmarks and Other Important Edifices"

- Proposed National Legislation: National Cultural Act (Proposed by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts [NCCA], 1996): "An Act Providing for the Protection and Preservation of Philippine Cultural Heritage and for Other Purposes"
- Executive Order 358¹⁹, (1996): "Creating a Presidential Commission for the Restoration, Conservation, and Preservation of Vigan Heritage Village"

Municipal:

Since the referral of the 1987 World Heritage Nomination Dossier for Vigan back to the Philippine authorities, additional Municipal legislation has been enacted. The recent legislation addresses preservation issues in a more specific manner than the pre-1987 legislation.

- Municipality of Vigan, Office of the Sangguniang Bayan, Ordinance 05, Series of 1990²⁰: "An Ordinance providing for the Preservation and Protection of Ancestral Houses and other Cultural Properties Located in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, particularly in the Mestizo Section"

As a result of the Second International Conference on Vigan (March, 1997) jointly sponsored by Unesco, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Svahai and KaiVigan, the following Municipal Ordinances were written and presented to the Sangguniang Bayan (Municipal Council) in support of the effort to conserve Vigan and for its renomination of The Historic Town of Vigan to the World Heritage List:

¹⁹ Annex 9

²⁰ Annex 10

- Municipality of Vigan, Office of the Sangguniang Bayan, Ordinance No. 12, Series of 1997²¹: "An Ordinance defining the Core and Buffer Zones of the Historic Town of Vigan and the Historical, Cultural, Educational, Aesthetic, and Economic Parameters of its Preservation and Development"
- Municipality of Vigan, Office of the Sangguniang Bayan, Ordinance No. 14, Series of 1997²²: "An Ordinance providing the Guidelines in the Conservation of the Historic Town of Vigan"
- Proposed Ordinance: Municipality of Vigan, Office of the Sangguniang Bayan, Ordinance No. __, Series of 19__: "An Ordinance Creating the Conservation Authority of Vigan,²³" a Draft Ordinance that proposes the creation of a Conservation Authority for Vigan, to establish a team of professionals qualified to oversee, manage, and monitor the conservation of Vigan. The Sangguniang Bayan (Municipal Council) of Vigan is still deliberating on the proposed Ordinance.

Public access is allowed to all government owned properties and to a majority of church owned properties.

However, the 188 historic houses that are the centerpiece of the urban ensemble within the Historic Core Zone of Vigan are all privately owned and are closed to the public.

Public acquisition of privately owned properties within the Historic Core Zone of Vigan is not planned.

c) Protective Measures and Means of Implementing Them

²¹ Annex 11

²² Annex 12

²³ Annex 13

Although national legislation to protect Vigan exists, the legislation that most directly affects the Historic Town of Vigan is the Municipal Ordinance No. 12 and No. 14 that are directly implemented by the Municipality of Vigan.

d) Agency/Agencies with Management Authority

The Vigan Heritage Commission is the agency that will coordinate with the Municipality of Vigan for the management of the site. The Commission has links with the Department of Tourism, the National Historical Institute, the National Museum, the Intramuros Administration, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the NGO's involved in the conservation of Vigan. The Implementing Guidelines for the Commission outline their tasks and responsibilities.

The maintenance of church property (immovable and moveable) is administered through the Archdiocesan Commission for the Conservation of the Cultural Heritage of the Church, which reports to the Commission for the Conservation of the Cultural Heritage of the Church that is under the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

e) Level at which management is exercised:

With the lack of a local conservation authority, the Municipality of Vigan will continue to exercise management control over the site.

The authority in charge is:

Mayor Eva Marie Singson Medina
Municipality of Vigan
Municipal Hall, Vigan

The Vigan Heritage Commission that is still in the process of organization has been mandated to oversee the conservation efforts for Vigan.

The authority in charge is:

Atty Carlitos Encarnación, Executive Director
Leona Florentino House
Vigan, Ilocos Sur

f) Agreed plans related to property:

National Tourism Master Plan for the Philippines²⁴

Tourism Development Master Plan for Region I (1992)²⁵

Conservation Plan for the Historical Center of Vigan, 1995²⁶. Tourconsult/International for the Commission of the European Union

Northwestern Luzon Growth Quadrangle Development Plan²⁷

Investment Promotion Package for the Northwestern Luzon Growth Triangle, 1997²⁸. Prepared by SGV Consulting under the USAid and the Coordinating Council of the Philippine Assistance Program

²⁴ Annex 14

²⁵ Annex 15

²⁶ Annex 16

²⁷ Annex 17

²⁸ Annex 18

Vigan Heritage Commission: Implementing Rules and Regulations; Action Plan²⁹

Consultations with Vigan stakeholders were held through the 4 workshops of the Avante Vigan: Second International Conference on the Conservation and Development of Vigan Conference Series:

- Industries in a Historic Town³⁰, 1 March 1997
- Livelihood Openings in an Ancient Town³¹, 8 March 1997
- Informing the Public about Vigan's Attractions³², 9 March 1997
- Formulating Policies and Ordinances related to the Development and Preservation of Historic Vigan³³, 4-5 May 1997
- Among the various plans listed above, the Avante Vigan Conference is reflective of the sentiments of the community since the resolutions adopted during the conference were done in consultation with the various community stakeholders under the guidance of the NCCA and Unesco.

Negotiations and currently underway with the Agencia Española de la Cooperación Internaciónál for the preparation of the "Comprehensive Conservation and Development Plan of Vigan."

g) Sources and Levels of Finance

The Municipal Budget is the principal source of finance for the site. Since its budget for conservation is extremely limited, NGO's are studying mechanisms to raise money to establish a conservation fund for the town.

²⁹ Annex 9

³⁰ Annex 19

³¹ Annex 20

³² Annex 21

³³ Annex 22

The Vigan Heritage Commission will be funded by the national government for its operational expenses and to implement its projects.

As the awareness to preserve Vigan increases, donations are received for specific projects. Congressman Eric Singson of the 2nd District of Ilocos Sur has allocated P5,000,000 from his Countryside Development Fund for restoration works to be done in the historic center of Vigan. The Municipality of Vigan and the National Historical Institute will implement the project.

h) Sources of expertise and training in conservation and management techniques

Professional expertise, difficult to find in the Philippines, is not available in Vigan. However, the situation is expected to improve in the future since management and staff training is continually being carried out through attendance in national and international seminars and workshops.

National and international organizations have participated in organizing a continuing series of training workshops in conservation and management. The following projects have been completed:

- Homeowners Maintenance Manual for Historic Properties in Vigan: a publication project of a homeowner's manual executed by SVAHAI and sponsored by Unesco;
- Avante Vigan Conference Series: a series of 4 visioning workshops for local stakeholders sponsored by SVAHAI, KaiVigan, the Monuments and Sites Committee of the NCCA, Unesco.
- Training Programs for heritage managers and construction artisans: to be held in late 1998, executed by the Municipality of Vigan, SVAHAI, and sponsored by Unesco.

Vigan has been selected as one of the five pilot sites for the Unesco Program “Integrated Community Development and Cultural Heritage Preservation in Asia and the Pacific through Local Effort” (LEAP).

i) Visitor Facilities and Statistics

Information Center: An information center is centrally located at the Leona Florentino House together with the offices of the Vigan Heritage Commission.

Interpretation: The Department of Tourism regularly publishes information brochures on Vigan. The Vigan Tourism Council has produced a tourism brochure and a map of the historic sties of the town. More interperitive material is planned.

Museums: The three museums in Vigan are the Burgos House (National Museum), the Museo Nueva Segovia (Roman Catholic Archbishop’s Museum), and the Crisologo Museum. The SyQuia Mansion, residence of former President of the Philippines Elpidio Quirino, is scheduled to be open to the public within 1998.

Accommodations and Restaurant Facilities: Some historic homes have been converted into bed and breakfast facilities. Together with the small hotels, there is a total of 147 rooms. Lower-priced dormitory accommodations are also available. The town has a wide range of restaurant facilities.

Tourism facilities: A repertoire of special-interest tours to be guided by local residents is being prepared. A variety of shops sell antiques from the region, locally manufactured reproductions of traditional wood furniture, crafts (especially Vigan weaving and stoneware pottery), and souvenirs.

Visitor Profile and Statistics: The total number of registered visitors in Ilocos Sur was 16,531 (1997), 60% of the total were domestic tourists. Most of the

visitors to Vigan are unregistered. A system of registration is currently being studied.

j) Property Management Plan and Statement of Objectives

It is hoped that the “Comprehensive Conservation and Development Plan of Vigan” to be produced by the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional will address the issues of a sustainable property management plan with objectives that are in consonance with the wishes of the Vigan stakeholders and community.

k) Staffing Levels

It is expected that when it becomes operational, the Vigan Heritage Commission will have a strong staff complement of managers and technical specialists to carry out the different aspects of the conservation program for Vigan.

5. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY

a) Development Pressures

There has been pressure from some homeowners to increase the profitability of their properties by demolishing, expanding, or remodeling, the existing structures to change their use from residential to commercial.

A number of historic structures have been re-used to house commercial establishments and warehouses that stress the facilities of the Core and Buffer Zones. Heavy vehicles deliver goods (construction supplies, bottled drinks, etc.) to the establishments while parked on the narrow streets, pollute the environment with their emissions, and their vibrations are destructive to the historic structures. It is hoped that with strict zoning, establishments such as these will be moved from within the protected zones.

However, the present state of economic instability in the Asian Region will temporarily suspend the development pressures to the historic Core and Buffer Zones in Vigan. It is expected that when the economy reverses its direction once again, the proper legislation will be in place to protect the structures.

b) Environmental Pressures

Inside the Core Zone and Buffer Zones, the greatest threat is the pollution caused by unchecked smoke emission, noise, and vibration caused by the large number of motorized passenger tricycles that continually cruise the streets of the town.

c) Natural Disasters and Preparedness

The natural threats have traditionally remained the same from the early days of Vigan: typhoons, earthquake, and fire.

The Municipality maintains three fire trucks. The Vigan Disaster Control Council is prepared to meet fires, typhoons, earthquakes, civil unrest, etc. The Bureau of Fire Protection conducts a yearly inspection of historical properties, verifying the condition of electrical wiring and provision of fire extinguishing equipment.

d) Visitor/Tourism Pressures

The visitor pressures in Vigan are minimal because of the low number of arrivals.

e) Number of Inhabitants within Property and Buffer Zone

A total of 2,648 inhabit the Core Zone area. 3,302 inhabit the Buffer Zone (1995 population figures).

6. MONITORING

Key Indicators for Measuring State of Conservation:
The background information is contained in the

Nomination Dossier for Vigan (1987), the ICOMOS Report on the Philippines (1989) by Alvaro Gómez Ferrer, and the ICOMOS Survey Mission to the Philippines (1992) by Jorge Gazaneo.

Administrative Arrangements for Monitoring Property: The proposed local conservation authority shall perform the actual monitoring of the site. Until its formation, the Office of the Mayor shall conduct monitoring. Informal monitoring is being conducted by SVAHAI.

Results of Previous Reporting Exercises: The results of previous reporting are best seen in comparison to the "Conservation Plan for the Historic Center of Vigan," prepared by Tourconsult/International (1996), that serves as the latest indicator of the status of Vigan.

7. DOCUMENTATION

Photographs, Slides, Film/Video: See Index

Copies of Property Management Plans and Extract of Other Plans Relevant to the Property are attached to this Dossier as Annexes 15 – 19. The full text of the Plans is available at the Office of the Municipal Mayor.

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a) Address where Inventory, Records, and Archives are held:

Mayor Eva Marie Singson Medina
Office of the Mayor
Vigan Municipal Hall
Vigan, Ilocos Sur

Secretary Domingo L. Siazon Jr.
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Chairman, Unesco National Commission of the
Philippines
Department of Foreign Affairs
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

8. SIGNATURE ON BEHALF OF THE STATE PARTY

EVA MARIE SINGSON MEDINA
MAYOR
MUNICIPALITY OF VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR

THE HISTORIC TOWN OF VIGAN

Philippines

List of Annexes

1. Favis, Ricardo L., *Situationer on Local Industries for the “Avante Vigan” Conference, 1997*
2. Castillo, Nicolo del, *Vigan: An Architectural Walking Tour, 1998*
3. Michelmore, David, *Report on a Mission to Vigan, 1997*
4. Vigan Nomination Dossier, 1987
5. Ziálcita, Fernando N., *Concept Paper: Second International Conference on Vigan, 1977*
6. RA 4846 (1966): “Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act”
7. PD 374 (1974): “Amending certain sections of Republic Act 4846, otherwise known as the Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act”
8. PD 756 (1975): “Amending Presidential Decree 260 to include the Mestizo Section, the houses of Padre José Burgos and Leona Florentino in its Scope”
9. PD 1505 (1978): “amending Presidential Decree 260, as amended, by Prohibiting the Unauthorized Modification, Alteration, Repair, and Destruction of Original Features of all National Shrines, Monuments, Landmarks, and Other Important Edifices”
10. EO 358 (1996): “Creating a Presidential Commission for the Restoration, Conservation, and Preservation of Vigan Heritage Village”

11. Municipal Ordinance 05, Series of 1990: “An Ordinance Providing for the Preservation and Protection of Ancestral Houses and other Cultural Properties Located in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, particularly in the Mestizo Section”
12. Municipal Ordinance 12, Series of 1997: “An Ordinance defining the Core and Buffer Zones of the Historical Town of Vigan and the Historical, Cultural, Educational, Aesthetic and Economic Parameters of its Preservation and Development”
13. Municipal Ordinance 14, Series of 1997: “An Ordinance providing the Guidelines of the Conservation of the Historic Town of Vigan”
14. Draft Municipal Ordinance: “Creating the Conservation Authority of Vigan”
15. Tourism Master Plan for the Philippines, 1991-2010
16. Tourism Master Development Plan for Region I
17. Conservation Plan for the Historic Center of Vigan
18. Master Plan, Northwest Luzon Growth Quadrangle
19. Investment Priorities Package for the Northwestern Luzon Growth Quadrangle
20. Second International Conference on the Conservation and Development of Vigan: *Industries in a Historic Town*
21. Second International Conference on the Conservation and Development of Vigan: *Livelihood Openings in an Ancient Town*
22. Second International Conference on the Conservation and Development of Vigan: *Informing the Public About Vigan’s Attraction*
23. Second International Conference on the Conservation and Development of Vigan: *Formulating Policies and Ordinances Related to the Development and Conservation of Historic Vigan*



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
VIGAN

Office of the Mayor

Eva Marie S. Medina

Mayor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.03
Series of 1999

**CREATING THE VIGAN CONSERVATION COUNCIL,
DEFINING ITS ROLE, FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, Article XIV, section 15 of the Constitution provides that: "The state conserve, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage" and Section 16 . . . "the cultural treasure of the nation shall be under the protection of the state which may regulate its disposition";

WHEREAS, R.A. 4846 declares that it is the policy of the state to preserve and protect the cultural properties of the nation;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to create a management body involving all the major stakeholders in the conservation of the historic district in Vigan that will be vested with all the powers and functions necessary to properly protect the fabric of Vigan's historical district composed of the core and buffer zones as defined in Ordinance No. 14, s. 1997;

NOW THEREFORE, I, EVA MARIE S. MEDINA, Mayor of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order;

SECTION 1. CREATION OF THE VIGAN CONSERVATION COUNCIL (VCC)
There is hereby created a management body to be known as the Vigan Conservation Council.

SECTION 2. VCC FUNCTIONS AND POWERS.

The Vigan Conservation Council herein created shall have the following powers and functions:

1. To formulate, recommend, evaluate and approve development plans, policies and programs relating to the conservation and development of the Core and Buffer Zones of the Historic District in Vigan.
2. To serve as an advisory council to the Sangguniang Bayan on Conservation matters.
3. Monitor the conservation, upkeep and maintenance of historical buildings, public areas, open spaces, streets and rivers found within the core and buffer zone as defined by Ordinance NO. 12 and 14 both of 1997 and recommend appropriate actions to be taken for the preservation thereof.
4. Assist the building officials/municipal engineer in the implementation of laws, ordinance and policies relative to the protection of the ancestral houses and other historic structures within the core and buffer zone.

5. Exercise all powers necessary or incidental of conservation objectives including the power to review, recommend or disapprove construction projects within the historic district.
6. Serve as the clearing house for all applications for Building Permits within the Historic District and refer such applications to the National Museum or the National Historical Institute as the case maybe, for their clearance based on the issuance of the VCC's Certificate of Approval.

SECTION 3. COMPOSITION OF THE VIGAN CONSERVATION COUNCIL

The Vigan Conservation Council shall be composed of the following:

- a. The Municipal Mayor - As Chairperson
- b. The SB Chair on Tourism - As Vice Chairman
- c. The SB Chair on Infrastructure - As Member
- d. The SB Chair on Education,
Culture and Sports - As Member
- e. The SB Chair on Finance - As Member
- f. A Minority Member of the SB - As Member
- g. An Architect representating
the U.A.P. - As Member
- h. A member of the Academe
Representing UNP - As Member
- i. The Curator of the Archdiocese
Of Nueva Segovia - As Member
- j. The Municipal Engineer - As Member
- k. The President or
Representative of SVAHAI - As Member
- l. The President of the
Fil-Chinese Chamber of Commerce - As Member
- m. The President of
The Vigan Tourism Council - As Member
- n. The Municipal Planning
And Development Officer - As Secretary

SECTION 4. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

The following members of the VCC shall compose the Technical Working Group:

1. The SB. Chair on Tourism - As Team Leader
2. A representative of the UAP - As Member
3. A representative from the
Academe - As Member
4. The Building Official - As Member
5. The MPDO of Vigan - As Secretariat

SECTION 5. FUNCTIONS OF THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

1. Formulate the Conservation Guidelines and recommend the same to the VCC for approval.
2. Review all architectural plans for the construction, restoration, or renovation of all structures within the core and buffer zones of the historic district and submit their findings and recommendations to the VCC prior to the issuance or non-issuance of the VCC Certificate of Approval.
3. Conduct an inventory and documentation of all historical structures in Vigan and assist in the formulation of a Master Plan for the conservation of the historical district.

SECTION 6. VCC CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

No structure shall be erected, restored, reconstructed, adapted for reuse, moved or demolished within the core buffer zones of the historic district without first obtaining VCC's Certificate of Approval.

This Certificate is an attestation that the conservation process applicable in the circumstances has been thoroughly studied taking into consideration the cultural significance of the place and the capability of the homeowner to undertake the project.

SECTION 7. REPEALING CLAUSE – all local Executive Orders and policies and regulations found inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVITY - This Executive Order takes effect immediately upon its approval.

Done in the Municipality of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, this 3rd day of March, in the year of our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety Nine.


EVA MARIE S. MEDINA
Mayor

**TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
VIGAN CONSERVATION COUNCIL
Vigan, Ilocos Sur**

2 April 1999


HON. EVA MARIE SINGSON-MEDINA
Mayor and Chairman
Vigan Conservation Council
Vigan, Ilocos Sur

Madam:

We are pleased to submit to you for your perusal our month-end report.

Thank you and our best wishes.

Very truly yours,


FERDINAND J. LAMARCA
Consultant


FATIMA R. ALONZO
Consultant


FRANCISCO RANCHES, JR.
Chairman, SB Committee on Tourism

PERIODIC REVIEW FORM

Target #	Prepared by: SBM Francisco Ranches, Jr. Arch. Fatima R. Alonzo Dr. Ferdinand J. Lamarca	Date: 31 March 1999
Target Description:		
Objective Description:		
Expected Results this period:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct of Historical Research • Investigation of foundation of ruins of four ancestral homes • Documentation • Consultation with NHI and National Museum 		
Actual Results this period:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct of Historical research about to be completed • Investigation of foundation of ruins of four ancestral homes <i>To be undertaken yet on April 6-8, 1999</i> • Documentation about to be completed • <i>Consultation with NHI and National Museum has yet to be arranged</i> 		
Analysis of Deviation from expected results:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excavation and investigation of ruins have been delayed because of the delays in the approval of requests of the Mayor by owners/caretakers of the ruins, as well as in the release of needed funds • Consultation with experts from NHI and NM requires among others results of excavation 		
Lessons Learned and Implications for next period:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests of the Mayor for excavation of ruins be expedited • Release of funds for excavation be made immediately 		
Expected results next period:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation of foundations of ruins • Consultation with NHI and National Museum • Analysis, Interpretation of and Proposed Solutions to relevant features of Vigan ancestral homes • Preparation of Technical Drawings and graphical presentations • Writing of Guidelines I and II 		

VI.	Printing of the Guidelines	Mayor Medina Vice Mayor Arca Sangguniang Bayan Members and VCC members	Printed guidelines															
VII.	Weekly Consultative and Monitoring Meeting	Mayor Medina SBM Ranches Alonzo Lamarca & Others	Weekly progress of the checked															
VIII.	Evaluation	Mayor Medina SBM Ranches Alonzo Lamarca & Others	Post-mortem analysis of the whole activity															

Prepared by:

HON. FRANCISCO RANCHES, JR.
Chairman, SB Committee on Tourism

DR. FERDINAND J. LAMARCA
Consultant

ARCHT. FATIMA ALONZO
Consultant

Approved by:

HON. EVA MARIE S. MEDINA
Municipal Mayor

Work and Financial Plan
**FORMULATION OF THE CONSERVATION GUIDELINES
 FOR VIGAN ANCESTRAL HOMES**
 February-May 1999

Activity	Output	Persons Responsible	Items	Resource Requirements	Time Frame
I. Preliminaries					
A. Exploratory Talks with Prospective Consultants	Agreement with Consultants	Hon. Franz Ranches Archt. Fatima Aionzo Dr. Ferdie Lamarca	Meetings		Feb 11
B. Setting of Terms of Reference	TOR defined	- do -	Meetings		Feb 11
C. Preparation of Work and Financial Plan	Work and Financial Plan	- do -	Meetings		Feb 12-15
II. Review of Existing Laws, Policies and Ordinances	Existing laws reviewed and appreciated	- do -	Document Review	P500 for reproduction of materials	Feb 16
III. Formulation of Technical Guidelines					
A. Conduct of Historical Research	Significant facts about the Vigan ancestral homes	Archt. Fatima Alonzo Archt. Fred Hernandez Mr. Damaso King	Research and document review	P50,000 for the honoraria of Consultants and RA and P500 for supplies	March 1-15
B. Investigation of foundation of ruins of an ancestral home	Structural design of foundation determined	Archt. Fatima Alonzo Archt. Fred Hernandez Engr. Edison Anyog workers	Excavation	P40,000 for excavation	March 1-15

Activity	Output	Persons Responsible	Items	Resource Requirements	Time Frame
C. Documentation	Relevant features of the Vigan ancestral houses	Archt. Fatima Alonzo Photographer Archt. Hernandez	Documenta- tion	P1,500 for the honoraria of photographer & P4,500 for supplies	March 1-15
D. Consultation with the NHI and National Museum particularly the architectural conservation division	laboratory tests on the compatibility if proposed substitute materials with the original materials	Consultants from NHI and National Museum	Consultation	P21,000 for transport expense, per diem and board and lodging	Mar 16-31
E. Analysis, Interpretation of and Proposed Solutions to relevant features of Vigan ancestral homes	Documentation analyzed and interpreted, solutions proposed	Archt. Fatima Alonzo Archt. Hernandez Engr. George Alonzo	Analysis and interpretation	P3,000 for supplies & P7,000 for honorarium of Engr. Alonzo	April 1-15
	Initial draft of the technical guidelines	Archt. Fatima Alonzo Archt. Hernandez Engr. Edison Anyog Engr. George Alonzo	Consultation		April 1-15
F. Preparation of Technical Drawings and graphical presentations	Technical drawings prepared	Archt. Fatima Alonzo Archt. Hernandez	Actual drawing	P3,000 for supplies and materials	April 1-15
G. Writing of Guidelines I	Objectives, Principles and Standards for Preservation and Conservation	Archt. Fatima Alonzo Dr. Ferdie Lamarca Hon. Franz Ranches	Meetings writing and deliberation	P30,000 for the honoraria of Dr. Lamarca	Mar 16 to April 30
	Conservation Guidelines for:			P20,000 for desktop printing	

Activity	Output	Persons Responsible	Items	Resource Requirements	Time Frame
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors and Windows • Roof and Ceilings • Wood Floors and Staircase • Electrical and Mechanical Systems. • Walls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bricks • wood • Architectural Ornamentation and Details • Paint • Signages (use of display and signs) • Groundfloor Flooring • Foundation 				
H. Writing of Guidelines II	<p>Objectives Principles and Standards for Design of Infilling Streetscape and Open Space</p> <p>Conservation Guidelines for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infilling • Streetscape • Open Space 				

Activity	Output Responsible	Persons	Items	Resource Requirement	Time Frame
IV Consultation	Conservation guidelines appreciated and approved by public	Vigan Conservation Council (VCC)	Consultation & deliberation		May
V. Approval of Conservation Guidelines by the Municipality of Vigan	Guidelines enacted into an ordinance	Mayor Medina Vice Mayor Arca Sangguniang Bayan Members and VCC members	Session Signing of document		May
VI Printing of the Guidelines	Printed guidelines	do	Consultation deliberation	P20,000 for printing and reproduction	May
VII Weekly Consultative and Monitoring Meeting	Weekly progress of the checked	Mayor Medina SBM Ranches Arch. Alonzo Dr. Lamarca & others	Monitoring Deliberation Consultation	P10,000 for snacks and meals	Mar - May
VIII Evaluation	Post-mortem analysis of the whole activity	do	assessment		May
Grand Total				P209,000	

Prepared by:

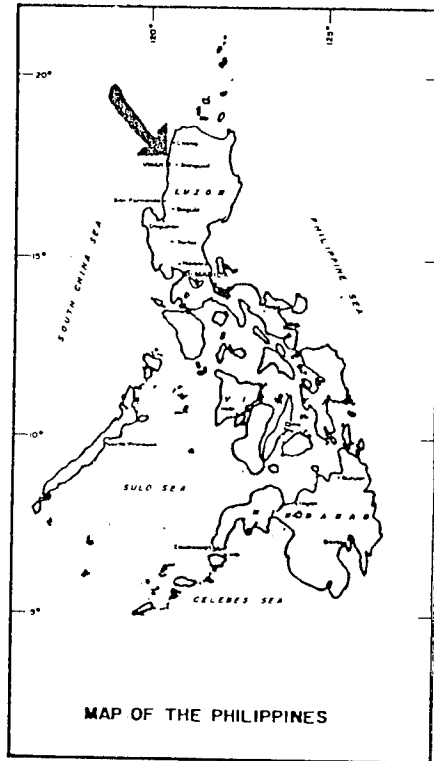
HON. FRANCISCO RANCHES, JR.
Chairman, SE Committee on Tourism

ARCHT. FATIMA ALONZO
Consultant

DR. FERDINAND LAMARCA
Consultant

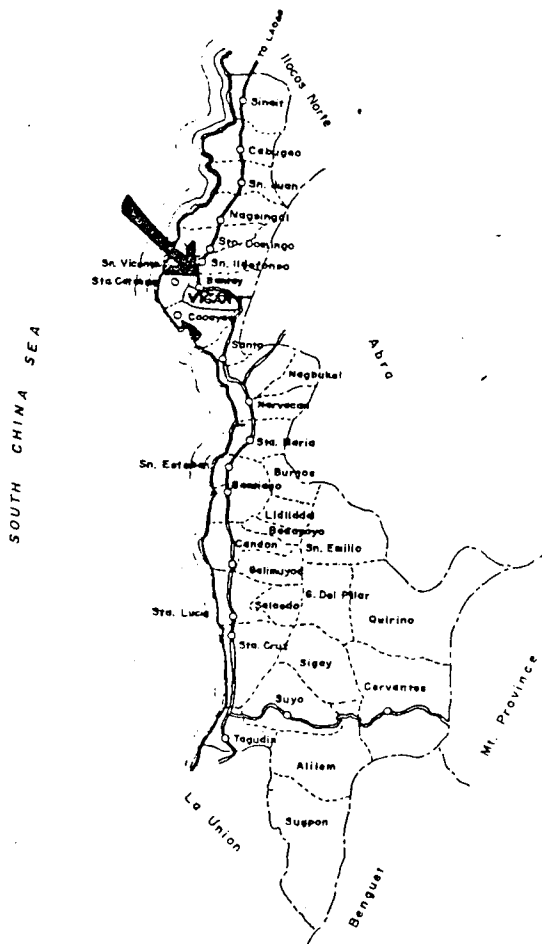
Approved by:

HON. EVA MARIE S. MEDINA
Municipal Mayor



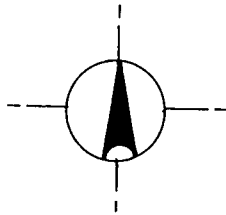
MAP OF THE PHILIPPINES

Map No. 1



Map No. 2 LOCATION MAP
Province of Ilocos Sur

HIERARCHY OF URBAN CENTRES 2002 ILOCOS SUR

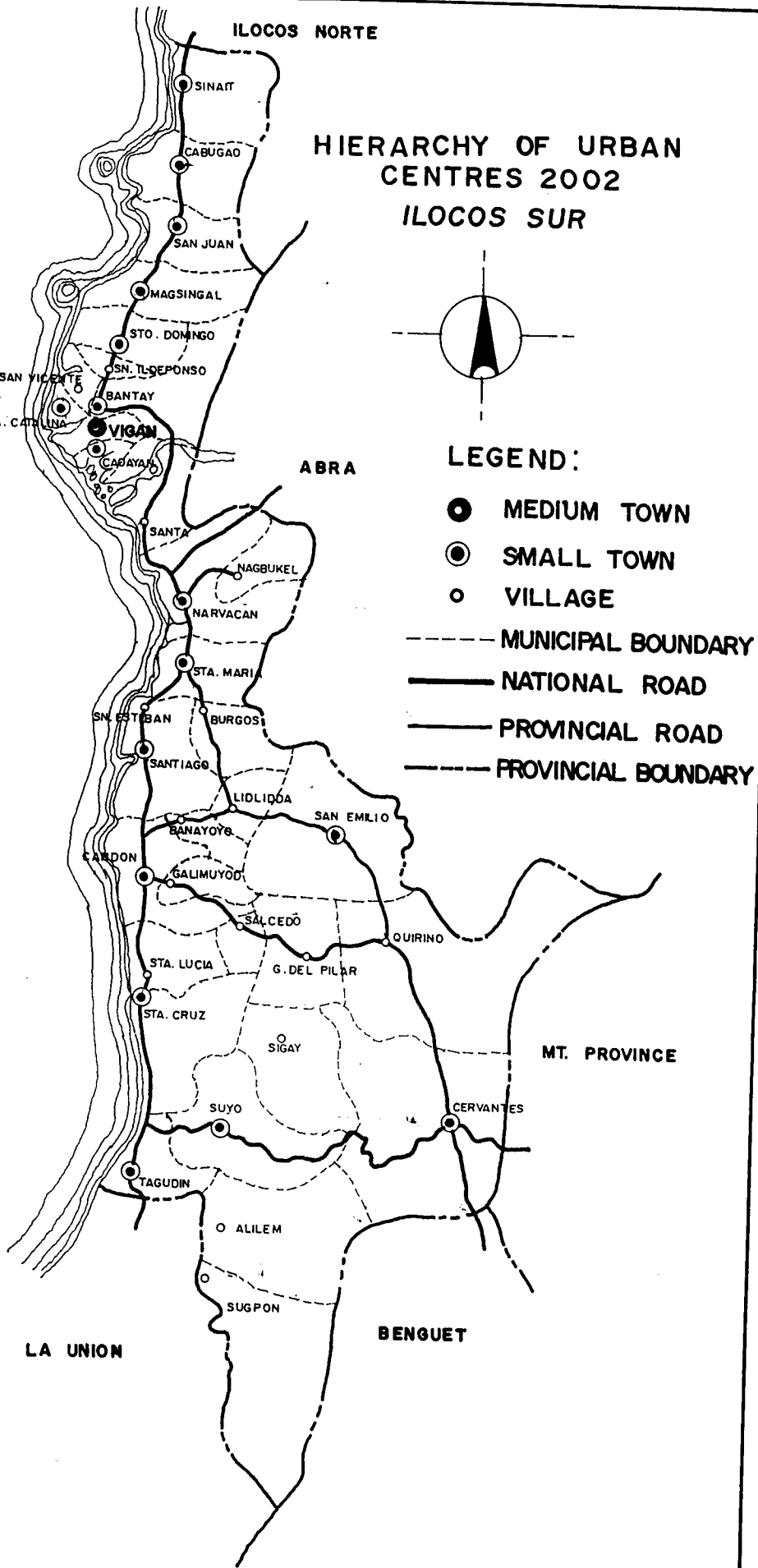


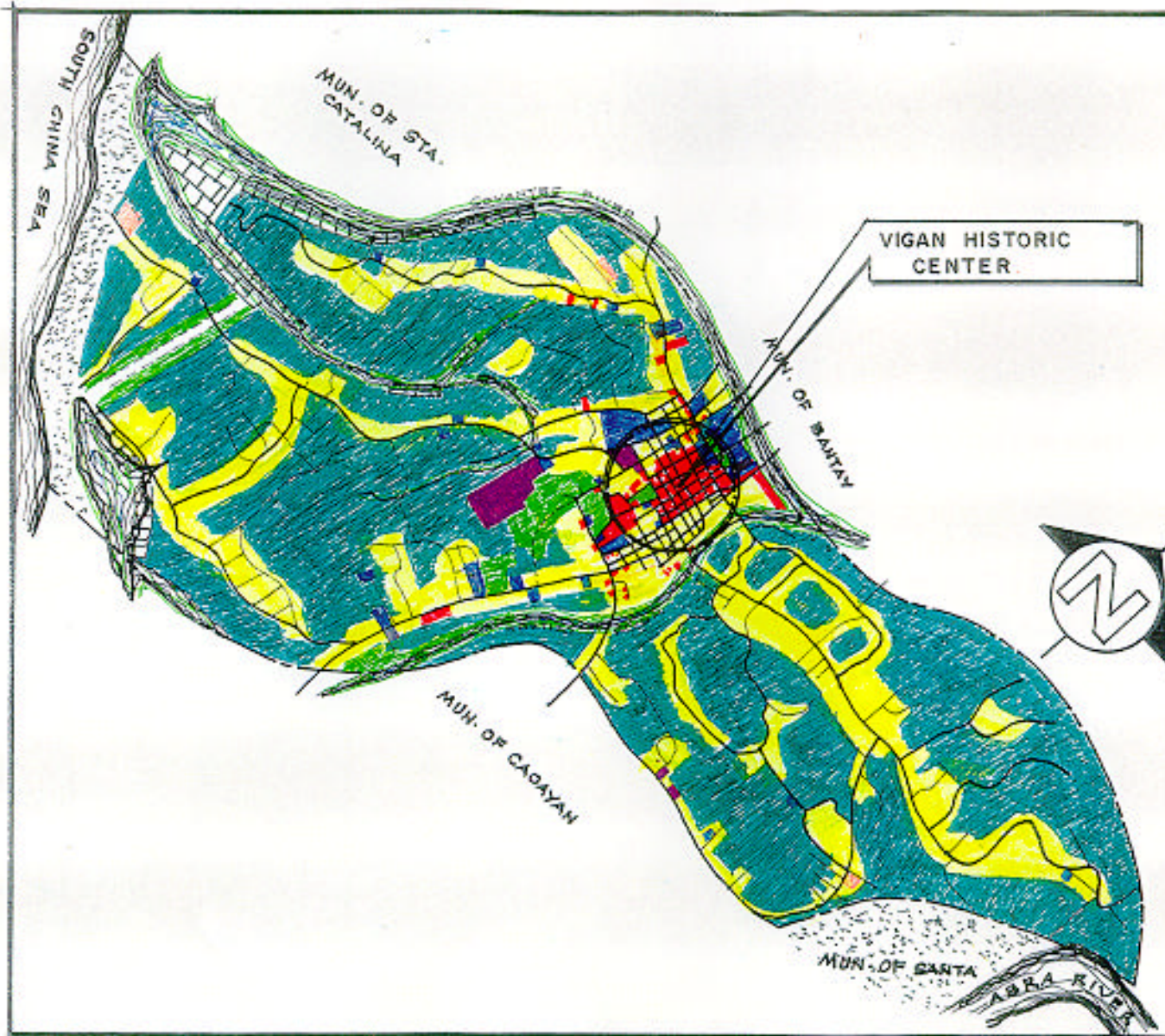
LEGEND:

- MEDIUM TOWN
- SMALL TOWN
- VILLAGE

- - - MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
- NATIONAL ROAD
- PROVINCIAL ROAD
- - - PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY

SOUTH CHINA SEA





PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR
MUNICIPALITY OF VIGAN
REGION I

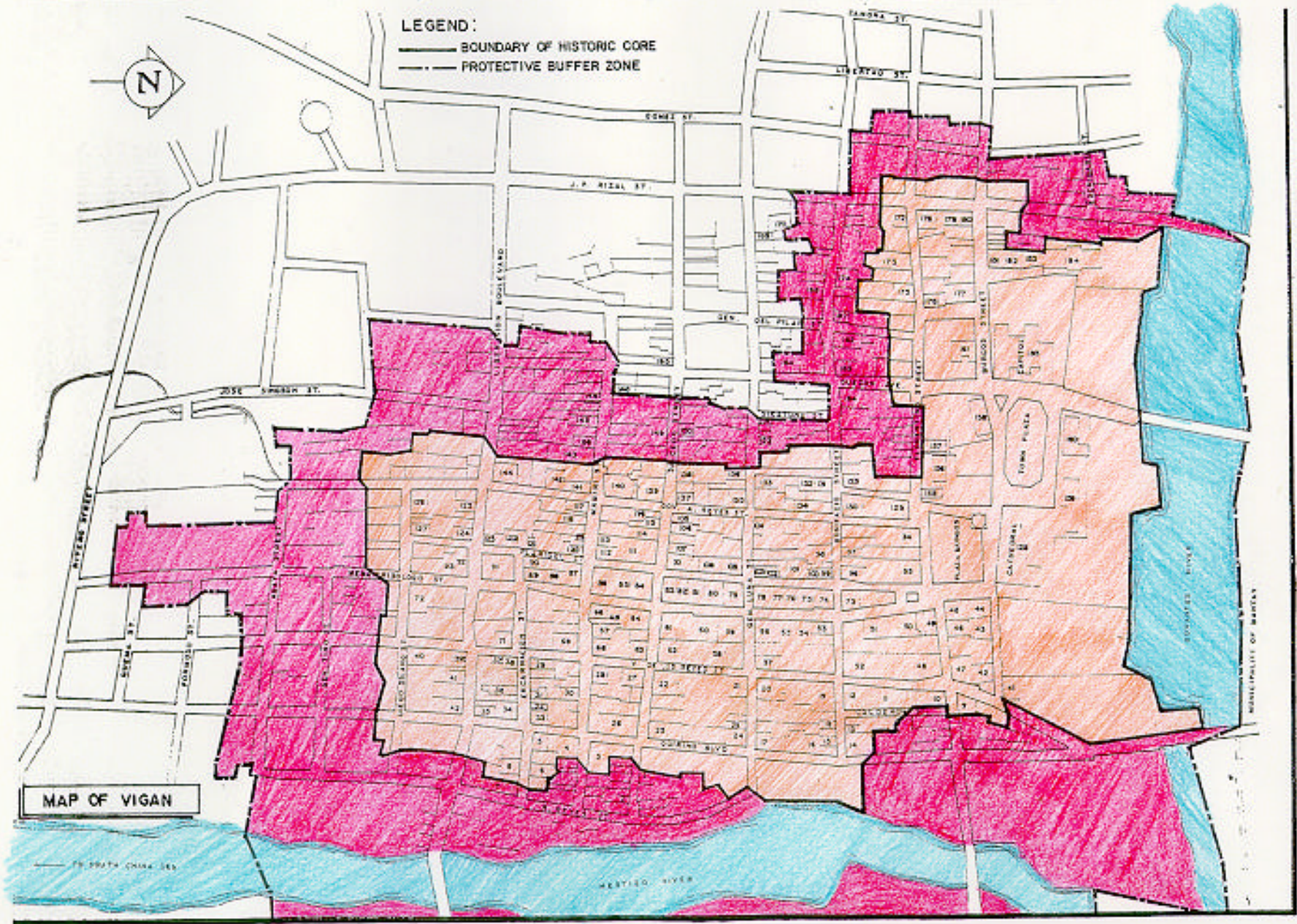


EXISTING LAND USE PLAN
VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR
SCALE : 1: 40,000

LEGEND:

-  PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, OPENSACE
-  AGRICULTURAL
-  RESIDENTIAL
-  COMMERCIAL
-  INSTITUTIONAL
-  INDUSTRIAL
-  SERVICES
-  BARREN LAND
-  AIRPORT

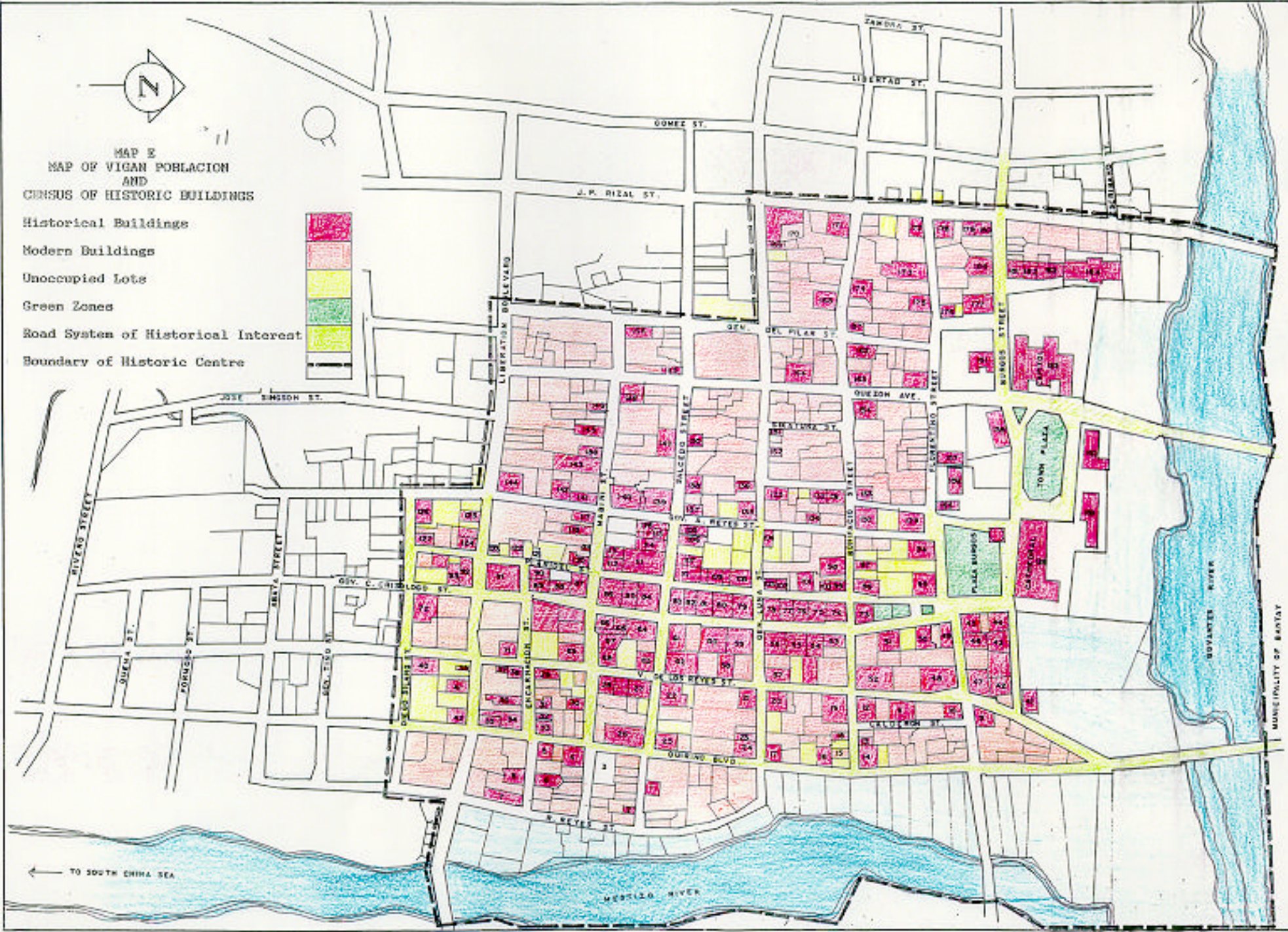
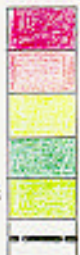
PREPARED BY: MUNICIPAL ENG'G OFFICE
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: D.I.L.G.
SOURCE: MUNICIPAL ENG'G OFFICE





MAP E
 MAP OF VIGAN POBLACION
 AND
 CENSUS OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

- Historical Buildings
- Modern Buildings
- Unoccupied Lots
- Green Zones
- Road System of Historical Interest
- Boundary of Historic Centre



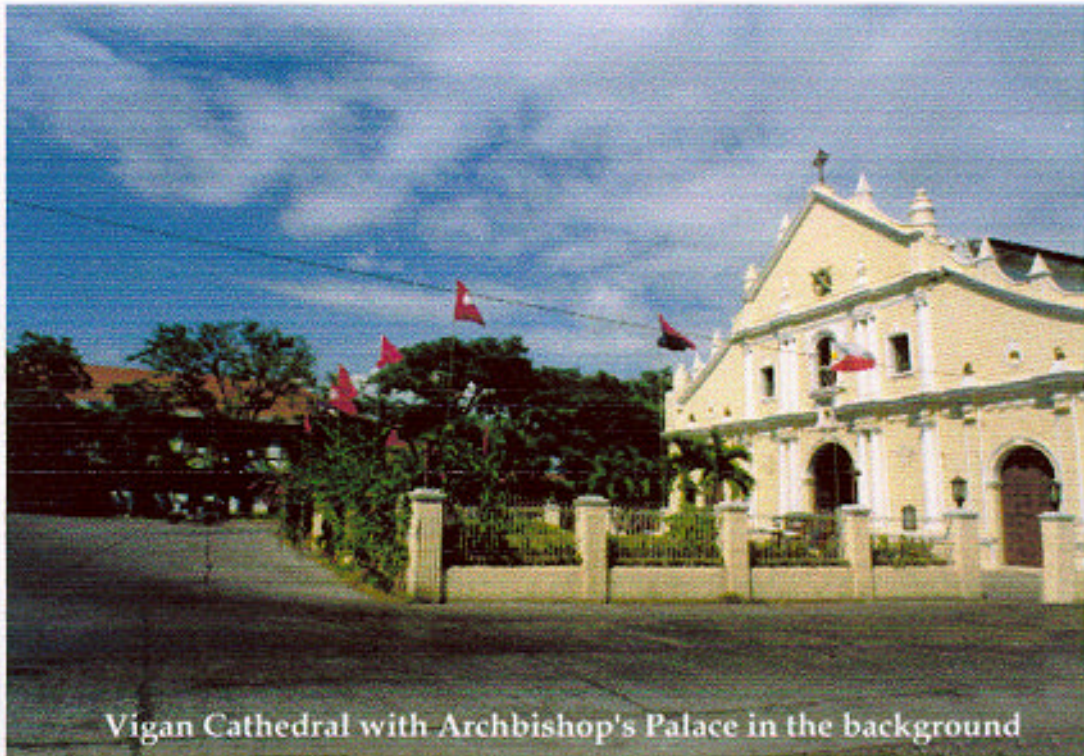
MUNICIPALITY OF BANTAY



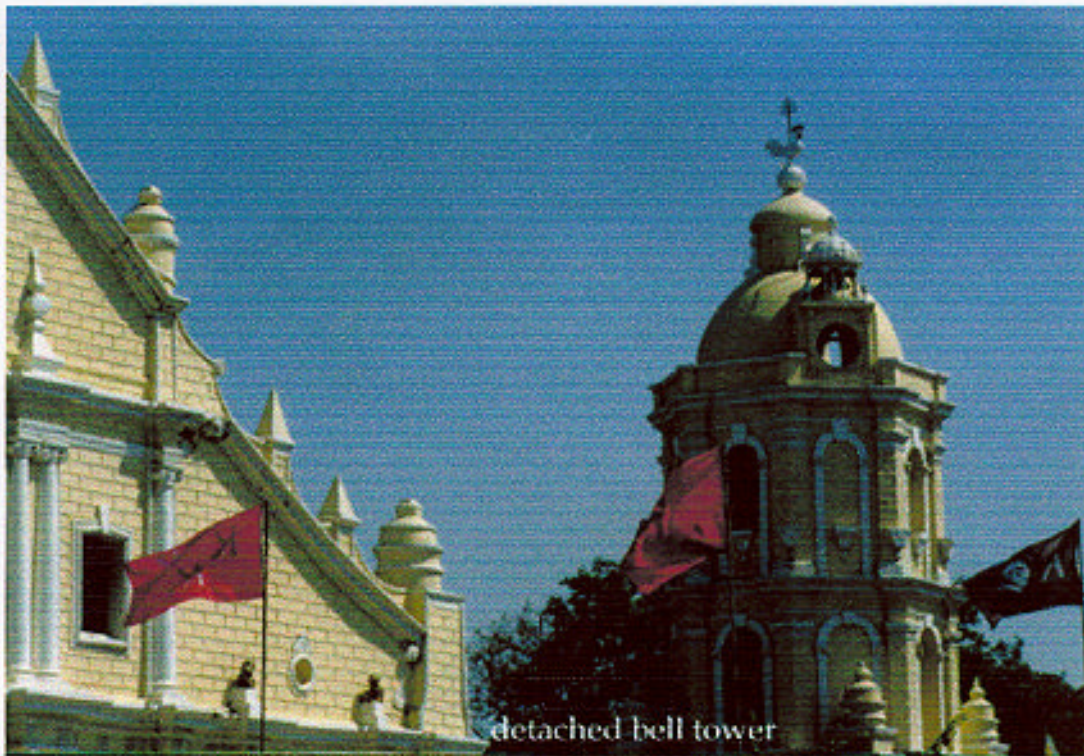
National Museum



Typical Vigan Street



Vigan Cathedral with Archbishop's Palace in the background



detached bell tower





Typical Vigan House



detail of window eaves



decorative details, stucco



decorative details, wood-cutout

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

WORLD HERITAGE LIST

N° 502

A) IDENTIFICATION

Nomination : Vigan

Location : Province of Ilocos Sur

State Party : Philippines

Date : January 25, 1988

B) ICOMOS RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed cultural property not be included on the World Heritage List.

C) JUSTIFICATION

In 1572 in the name of the King of Spain, Juan de Salcedo, "Encomendero" of the region of Ilocos, took possession of a small island in the delta of Abra, on the coastal plain along the China Sea north of the island of Luzon. In 1574 the settlement took the name of "Villa Ferdinanda", and later, "Ciudad Ferdinanda". The name ultimately adopted, Vigan, comes from Riga, the common name of the giant Araceae (Alocasia macrorrhiza), commonly found in the nearby marshes.

The site has changed since 1572. Two arms of the river, the Govantes to the north and the Mestizo to the east, now border the area of the original settlement, which is connected to the mainland of the delta to the southwest as a result of shifting of the Abra. However, the layout of the new city respects the original arrangement : Plaza Mayor to the north is the site of the main seats of power, the cathedral, the archbishop's palace and the city hall. A checkerboard plan whose axes roughly oriented north-south and east-west govern the regular distribution of the residential blocks.

Fruitless attempts have been made to locate vestiges of Spanish architecture of the Golden Age in Vigan. No structures from the 16th and 17th centuries could have survived in a city located at 17° 34'30" north in a tropical region affected by monsoons as well as the hazards of earthquakes and typhoons.

The city's great monuments are modest in appearance. The cathedral, built from 1783 to 1790 and extensively restored in 1824-1826, is especially remarkable by its massive wall facade; the gable rampants which extend in a slight curve along the sides

crown the central portion in a spirit of classical design, with Doric semi-columns on the ground level and Ionic semi-columns on the upper level. The bell tower stands off to the side, on a square base; it is octagonal and is topped with a dome and a lantern.

Vigan's great charm stems rather from its vernacular architecture. It is said to be inspired by local traditions and by huts on bamboo or wood stilts thatched with nip or cogon in which the original inhabitants lived until the 17th century. The traditional Vigan house, the result of adapting Spanish-American housing styles to geographic conditions and local techniques, consists of a ground floor in stone or brick, above which is a single storey constructed mainly of wood. The lower level comprises storerooms and quarters for domestics, and on the upper level, the quarters of the masters. Often there are two buildings with a common staircase leading to a central terrace, off of which, either directly or through a gallery, is a living room leading to the bedrooms and a large dining room and kitchen. This reversal of the traditional arrangement of a patio by building it on the upper level thus making it a terrace, is accompanied by quality architectural design: facing the street, the facades are adorned with pilasters and thick cornices; stone or wood balustrades and sometimes iron grillworks are part of the decoration on the upper level.

In 1987 there were 161 old houses of this type in Vigan, all in a precarious state of conservation. Only 14 still had tiled roofs; most of the others were temporarily roofed with corrugated sheet metal.

The Mestizo quarter, which has the best examples of the type of traditional architecture which flourished during the 18th and 19th centuries, and the historic homes of Padre Jose Burgos and Leona Florentino, have been placed under protection by a presidential decree dated 30 July 1957. The Vigan National Museum is responsible for safeguarding the protected sections of the city. Rehabilitation projects -if any exist- have not been included in the nomination file.

ICOMOS fully recognizes the value of Vigan in the national heritage of the Philippines and supports the wishes of local authorities and experts for total conservation of the monuments and houses of this historic city which is sparsely-populated (35,994 inhabitants in 1986) and relatively untouched by real estate speculation and urban planning projects. However, this cultural property has not been shown to have sufficient exemplarity, and the urban and architectural quality of Vigan is in no way comparable to that of Spanish cities in the Caribbean,

such as Cartagena de Indias (Columbia), or Trinidad (Cuba) which were included on the World Heritage List in 1984 and 1988 respectively. The adaptation of European architectural styles to the climatic conditions of monsoon weather in Asia might be a more positive argument. However, when the criterion of cultural adaptation was cited in support of listing Galle (Sri Lanka) on the World Heritage List in 1988, several members of the Committee expressed doubts as to its validity.

ICOMOS, September 1989

Vigan (Philippines)

No 502rev

Identification

<i>Nomination</i>	The Historic Town of Vigan
<i>Location</i>	Province of Ilocos Sur
<i>State Party</i>	Philippines
<i>Date</i>	30 April 1998

Justification by State Party

Vigan, part of the 18th and 19th century network of Asian trading cities, demonstrates a unique architecture that effortlessly fuses Ilocano, Filipino, Chinese, and Spanish styles. It also demonstrates, in a tropical Asian setting rather than in the New World, the typical Spanish colonial urban layout as specified by the *Ley de las Indias*, thus linking Vigan to another network of colonial cities in Latin America.

Criterion ii

Vigan is testimony to the Filipino cultural traditions and lifestyle of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Its domestic architecture, allowing business to be conducted on the ground floor and the family to reside above, reflects deep kinship with its Asian neighbours, where entrepreneurs preferred to live and work in their houses. The lifestyle gave rise to streets lined with shop-houses, similar to the rows of Vigan houses that stand next to one another along the narrow streets. The urban ensemble of Vigan is a group of buildings which, because of its architecture, its homogeneity, and its place in and relationship with the landscape, is truly of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history and art.

Criterion iii

The architecture of Vigan is truly reflective of its roots. It is built from the wood, stone, shells (*kapis*), and terra cotta derived from its surroundings. The houses are in the traditional *bahay na bato* style, where the ground floor is enclosed by stone walls and the upper level is constructed entirely of wood. A variant to this style exists in Vigan in which both storeys of some houses are built entirely in stone or brick.

Criterion iv

Vigan is well known in the Philippines as the last urban area that has maintained the architecture and urban planning established during the Spanish colonial period. Modernization and progress are creating pressure for the transformation of many structures in the historic core zone as well as the buffer zone. However, Vigan is determined to maintain its authenticity.

Criterion v

Category of property

In terms of the categories of cultural property set out in Article 1 of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *group of buildings*.

History and Description

History

Before the arrival of the Spanish, there was a small indigenous settlement on what was at that time an island, consisting of wooden or bamboo houses on stilts. In 1572 the *conquistador* Juan de Salcedo founded a new town, which he named Villa Ferdinandina, on this site, and made it his capital when he was appointed Lieutenant Governor (*Encomendero*) of the entire Ilocos region. Intended as a trading centre rather than a fortress, it was the northernmost city established in the Philippines by the Spanish.

At the end of the 17th century a new form of architecture evolved, which combined the traditional construction with the techniques of building in stone and wood introduced by the Spanish. Brick was introduced by the Augustinian friars for their churches and other buildings.

The seat of the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia was transferred there in 1758, making it the centre of religious activity in the region. In 1778, as a result of its expansion, it was renamed Ciudad Ferdinandina.

The Mestizo river was central to the development of the town in the 16th-19th centuries: large sea-going vessels could berth in the delta and small craft communicated with the interior. However, it is now no longer navigable owing to silting, as a result of which the town is no longer an island.

As the major commercial centre for the region, Vigan traded directly with China. As a stage in the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade that lasted throughout the Spanish colonial period, it supplied goods that were shipped across the Pacific to Mexico, and thence onwards across the Atlantic to Europe. These trading links resulted in constant exchanges of peoples and cultures between the Ilocanos, Filipinos, Chinese, Spanish, and (in the 20th century) North Americans.

Description

Vigan is located in the delta of the Abra river, off the coastal plain of the China Sea, close to the north-east tip of the island of Luzon.

The present-day municipality covers some 27km², divided into nine urban districts (*poblaciones*) and thirty rural villages (*barangays*). Nearly half the total area is still in use for agriculture. The Historic Core Zone, which is proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List, covers an area of 17.25ha defined on two sides by the Govantes and Mestizo rivers.

The traditional Spanish checkerboard street plan opens up into a main plaza, in two parts. The Plaza Salcedo is the longer arm of an L-shaped open space, with the Plaza Burgos as the shorter. The former is dominated by the Municipal Hall and the Provincial Capitol and the latter by the Cathedral.

The urban plan of the town closely conforms with the Renaissance grid plan specified in the *Ley de la Indias* for all

new towns in the Spanish Empire. There is, however, a noticeable difference between Vigan and contemporary Spanish colonial towns in Latin America in the Historic Core (known as the Mestizo district), where the Latin tradition is tempered by strong Chinese, Ilocano, and Filipino influences. As its name implies, this district was settled by affluent families of mixed Chinese-Ilocano origin.

The building materials used in Vigan are terra cotta, wood, shells (*kapis*), stone, and lime, all obtained from the surrounding area. The architecture of the typical Vigan house is derived from the traditional Filipino dwelling, the *bahay kubo*, which is a small one-room hut built of light woven materials (wood, bamboo, and thatch), raised off the ground on stilts for ventilation and as protection against monsoon flooding.

Such structures are no longer to be found in Vigan, but their influence is discernible in the much larger *bahay na bato* (stone house). This is a much more solid structure, with a stone-built lower storey surmounted by a timber-framed upper storey, and with a steeply pitched tiled roof (reminiscent of traditional Chinese architecture). The exterior walls of the upper storey are enclosed by window panels of *kapis* shells framed in wood which can be slid back for better ventilation. Most of the existing buildings were probably built in the mid 18th to late 19th centuries. Few have escaped internal reorganization to adapt them for alternative use with the decline of the town's prosperity.

The Chinese merchants and traders conducted their business from offices and warehouses on the ground floors of their houses, with the living quarters above. This is characteristic of Chinese society, to be observed in other Asian cities such as Penang, Singapore, and the older sections of Bangkok.

The resulting townscape has a special quality not to be found elsewhere. It is a unique manifestation of the multi-cultural nature of Filipino society, which harmoniously blends Ilocano, Filipino, Chinese, and North American elements to produce a homogeneous whole.

In addition to the domestic and commercial architecture, Vigan possesses a number of significant public buildings, which also show multi-cultural influences. These include the Cathedral of St Paul (1790-1800), the Archbishop's Palace (1783), St Paul's College (1892), the Catholic Cemetery Chapel (1852), and the neo-classical early 20th century Provincial Capitol.

Management and Protection

Legal status

Vigan is currently protected by the following legal instruments at national level:

- Presidential Decree No 374, 1974 "Amending certain sections of ... the Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act;
- Presidential Decree No 756, 1975 "Amending Presidential Decree No 260 to include the Mestizo Section, the houses of Padre José Burgos and Leona Florentino in its scope";
- Presidential Decree No 1505, 1978 "Amending Presidential Decree No 260, as amended, by prohibiting the unauthorized modification, alteration, repair, and

destruction of original features of all national shrines, monuments, landmarks, and other important edifices";

- Executive Order No 358, 1996 "Creating a Presidential Commission for the Restoration, Conservation and Preservation of Vigan Heritage Village."

A new "Act providing for the Protection and Preservation of Philippine Cultural Heritage ..." is shortly to come into effect.

At local level, the Ordinance No 05 "Providing for the preservation and protection of ancestral houses and other properties in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, particularly in the Mestizo Section" was promulgated in 1990 by the Municipality of Vigan. Following the 2nd International Conference on Vigan in March 1997, the following Municipal Ordinances were approved by the Sangguniang Bayan (Municipal Council):

- Ordinance No 12 "Defining the Core and Buffer Zones of the Historic Town of Vigan and the historical, educational, aesthetic, and economic parameters of its preservation and development";
- Ordinance No 14 "Providing the guidelines for the conservation of the Historic Town of Vigan."

The Council is still considering the proposed Ordinance "Creating the Conservation Authority of Vigan."

Management

Ownership of the buildings and open spaces included in the nomination is mixed. The public buildings are owned variously by the Provincial Government of Ilocos Sur, the Municipal Government of Vigan, and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nueva Segovia, and most of these are accessible to the public. All the houses in the Core and Buffer Zones are privately owned, but none is open to the public.

The Core and Buffer Zones are carefully defined so as to preserve the urban fabric and townscape. This action was taken following the deferral of the nomination in 1987, when the zones were not adequately delineated.

Formal responsibility for the preservation of the Historic Core rests with the Vigan Heritage Commission, created by Executive Order No 358, 1996, in collaboration with the Municipality of Vigan. In addition, the Commission has links with the Department of Tourism, the National Historical Institute, the National Museum, the Intramuros Administration (Manila), the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the non-governmental organizations involved in the conservation of the town. Church property is administered through the Archdiocesan Commission for the Conservation of the Cultural Heritage of the Church.

Awaiting the establishment of the proposed specialist Conservation Authority, day-to-day management remains the province of the Municipality of Vigan.

A number of land-use and other plans take account of the special needs of Vigan to varying degrees. These include:

- National Tourist Master Plan for the Philippines 1991-2010;
- Conservation Plan for the Historical Center of Vigan, 1995 (Tourconsult/International for the Commission of the European Union);

- Tourism Development Master Plan for Region I, 1992; Vigan, 1995 (Department of Tourism);
- Northwestern Luzon Growth Quadrangle Development Plan, 1995 (USAid Project);
- Investment Promotion Package for the Northwestern Luzon Growth Quadrangle, 1997 (USAid Project);
- Implementing Rules and Regulations: Action Plan, 1996 (Vigan Heritage Commission).

The Second International Conference for the Conservation and Development of Vigan, held in 1997, prepared a number of draft policies and ordinances for the development and preservation of the historic town.

Negotiations are in progress at the present time with the Agencia Española de la Cooperación Internacional for the preparation of a "Comprehensive Conservation and Development Plan of Vigan."

All funding for conservation projects at the present time comes from the limited budget of the Municipality of Vigan. Local non-governmental organizations are studying mechanisms for fund-raising, and private donations have been received for specific projects. When it is fully operational the work of the Vigan Heritage Commission, which is mandated to coordinate conservation programmes in the town, will be funded by the national government.

Conservation and Authenticity

Conservation history

The first attempt to sensitize proprietors of historic properties and administrators in Vigan to the need for adequate conservation was in 1975, when the National Museum organized a seminar at which the town's heritage and the need to preserve it were emphasized. Subsequently a team of architects and engineers was sent by the Museum to carry out documentation work and advise property owners on necessary conservation measures. However, shortage of funds meant that this had little lasting impact.

The 1995 Conservation Plan for the Historical Centre of Vigan (see above) surveyed the existing buildings (56 properties with wooden upper storeys, 130 entirely in masonry or brick), and concluded that 86 structures were in a good state of conservation and 84 in a mediocre to poor state of conservation.

A detailed inventory of 120 houses was carried out in 1996, funded by the Toyota Foundation, and this serves as the basis for future conservation planning.

Authenticity

The street pattern is entirely authentic, conforming completely with that laid down by the Spanish in the 16th century. The authenticity of the overall townscape and the open spaces is also high.

So far as the buildings are concerned, lack of conservation control has resulted in the use of modern materials such as galvanized iron on roofs instead of tiles.

An awareness of the need to preserve authenticity has only developed recently in relation to Vigan. Restoration and conservation practices that respect the authenticity of this

town that has developed organically over several centuries are now being introduced, making use of the considerable reserve of traditional crafts that survives in the Philippines.

Evaluation

Action by ICOMOS

An ICOMOS expert mission visited Vigan in January 1999.

Qualities

Vigan is unique among the towns of the Philippines by virtue of the fact that it is the only one to preserve much of its Spanish colonial character intact. It is also significant because of the way in which distinct architectural traditions - European, Ilocano, Filipino, and Chinese - have fused to create a homogeneous townscape of great cultural importance.

Comparative analysis

Vigan belongs to a group of important South-East Asian trading cities in which Asian and European elements blend together, such as Malacca, Macau, Singapore, and Hoi An. Closest to it is probably Hoi An, where the same pattern of shop-houses influenced strongly from China can be observed.

Vigan is, however, unique in that it is the only town in this group in which the rigid Spanish colonial checkerboard street pattern survives intact. The only surviving parallels in this respect are to be found in Latin America, but these do not exhibit the multi-cultural fusion that Vigan demonstrates.

ICOMOS comments and recommendations for future action

The nomination of Vigan to the World Heritage List was first considered by the Committee at its 13th Session in Paris in December 1989. The Committee recommended that it should not be inscribed on the List, but exceptionally "suggested that the Philippine authorities contact ICOMOS and the Secretariat so as to study the possibility of elaborating a new nomination made up of particularly significant elements of the very special heritage of the Philippines" (Committee Report, XIV.46.C).

ICOMOS had recommended rejection in 1989 on the grounds that "this cultural property has not been shown to have sufficient exemplarity, and the urban and architectural quality of Vigan is in no way comparable to that of Spanish cities in the Caribbean such as Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) or Trinidad (Cuba)." ICOMOS now acknowledges that comparison with Spanish colonial towns in Latin America and the Caribbean is not a valid one: historic towns should be evaluated in a regional context rather than globally.

The expert mission that visited Vigan in January 1999 made a number of observations that should be referred to the State Party:

- Minor modifications are suggested to the delineation of the Core Zone. The Divine Word of Vigan College in the north-eastern part of the Core Zone, which is a modern four-storey structure, should be excluded, as should certain buildings used for inappropriate purposes (soft drinks store, petrol station).

- Similarly, the limits of the Buffer Zone should be modified so as to exclude the former Vigan Central School, now used as an extension of the bus terminal complex.
- The mission was concerned that the Vigan Heritage Commission created in 1996 is not fully operational, apparently for lack of professional personnel. There is also a duplication of responsibilities between the Commission and the National Museum, which is the agency to which all requests relating to protected historic buildings must be referred.
- The Municipal Ordinance to establish the Conservation Authority was close to being approved when the mission took place. Since it provides for the creation of a team of conservation professionals, a further source of duplication seems likely to be introduced shortly.

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party should be a. requested to modify the boundaries of the Core and Buffer Zones slightly, so as to make them more appropriate for World Heritage inscription, and b. establish clear lines of responsibility and authority for the existing and proposed agencies involved with the preservation of the historic town, so as to avoid potential duplication and conflict.

Brief description

Vigan is the most intact example in Asia of a planned Spanish colonial town, established in the 16th century. Its architecture reflects the coming together of cultural elements from elsewhere in the Philippines and from China with those of Europe to create a unique culture and townscape without parallels anywhere in East and South-East Asia.

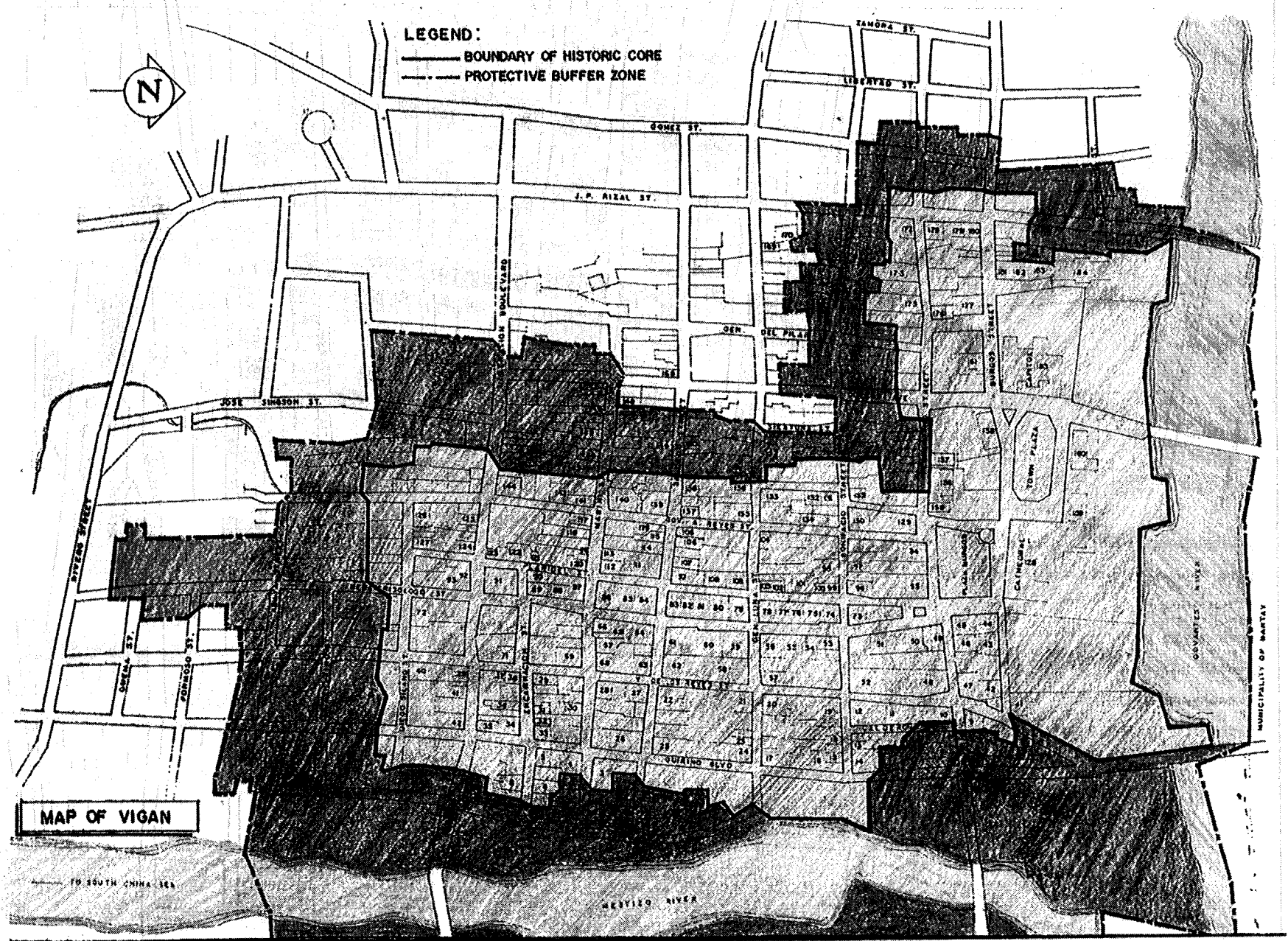
Recommendation

The Bureau recommended that this nomination should be referred back to the State Party, requesting modifications to the boundaries of the nominated area and its buffer zone, as suggested by ICOMOS, and an unambiguous statement of the proposed conservation structure, to be supplied by 1 October 1999. This information had not been received when this evaluation was prepared for printing. In the event of this information being supplied and found acceptable, ICOMOS recommends that the property should be inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of *criteria ii and iv*:

Criterion ii Vigan represents a unique fusion of Asian building design and construction with European colonial architecture and planning.

Criterion iv Vigan is an exceptionally intact and well preserved example of a European trading town in East and South-East Asia.

ICOMOS, September 1999



**La ville historique de Vigan / The Historic town of Vigan :
 Plan du site / Site plan**

Vigan (Philippines)

No 502rev

Identification

Bien proposé La ville historique de Vigan

Location Province d'Ilocos-Sur

Etat Partie Philippines

Date 30 avril 1998

Justification émanant de l'Etat partie

Vigan, qui faisait partie du réseau des villes commerçantes d'Asie aux XVIII^e et XIX^e siècles, présente une architecture unique qui allie aisément les styles Ilocano, philippin, chinois et espagnol. Bien que construite en Asie tropicale et non dans le Nouveau Monde, c'est une ville de type colonial espagnol qui répond aux règles d'urbanisme définies dans la *Ley de las Indias* et qui, par conséquent, lie Vigan au réseau des villes coloniales d'Amérique latine. **Critère ii**

Vigan témoigne des traditions culturelles philippines et du mode de vie de ses habitants aux XVIII^e, XIX^e, et XX^e siècles. L'architecture locale, qui prévoit dans une même construction les locaux professionnels au rez-de-chaussée et l'habitation familiale à l'étage supérieur, reflète les liens profonds qu'elle entretient avec les pays asiatiques voisins où commerçants et entrepreneurs vivent et travaillent sur le même lieu. Ce mode de vie se traduit dans la ville de Vigan par des rues bordées d'échoppes où les maisons se dressent les unes à côté des autres en bordure de voies étroites. L'ensemble urbanistique de Vigan se compose d'un groupe de constructions qui, par leur architecture, leur unité et leur intégration dans le paysage, a une véritable valeur universelle exceptionnelle du point de vue de l'histoire et de l'art. **Critère iii**

L'architecture de Vigan est un reflet authentique de ses racines. Les matériaux de construction - bois, pierre, coquillages (*kapis*) et terre cuite - proviennent de la région. Les maisons sont de style traditionnel *bahay na bato*, avec le rez-de-chaussée fermé par des murs de pierre et le niveau supérieur entièrement fait de bois. Certaines maisons de Vigan présentent une variante de ce style avec les deux niveaux construits en pierre ou en brique. **Critère iv**

Vigan est réputée pour être la dernière ville des Philippines à avoir conservé l'architecture et le plan urbanistique de la période coloniale espagnole. La modernisation et les progrès créent une forte pression en faveur de la transformation de nombreuses structures du centre de la partie historique de la ville ainsi que de la

zone tampon. Vigan est cependant déterminée à conserver son authenticité. **Critère v**

Catégorie de bien

En termes de catégories de biens, telles qu'elles sont définies à l'article premier de la Convention du Patrimoine mondial de 1972, le bien proposé est un *ensemble*.

Histoire et description

Histoire

Avant l'arrivée des Espagnols, il existait un village indigène installé sur une île, constitué d'un groupe de maisons de bois ou de bambou sur pilotis. En 1572 le *conquistador* Juan de Salcedo fonda sur ce site une ville nouvelle, qu'il baptisa du nom de Villa Ferdinandina. Il en fit sa capitale lorsqu'il fut nommé Lieutenant Gouverneur (*Encomendero*) de la région d'Ilocos. Conçue comme un comptoir commercial plutôt que comme une forteresse, elle était l'établissement urbain le plus septentrional installé aux Philippines par les Espagnols.

A la fin du XVII^e siècle, une nouvelle forme d'architecture est née, qui alliait la construction traditionnelle avec les techniques de construction en pierre et bois introduites par les Espagnols. Les frères augustins introduisirent la brique pour leurs églises et leurs bâtiments.

Le siège de l'archidiocèse de la Nueva Segovia fut transféré à Vigan en 1758 qui devint le centre de l'activité religieuse de la région. En 1778, en raison de son expansion, elle fut rebaptisée Ciudad Ferdinandina.

Le fleuve Mestizo joua un rôle central dans le développement de la ville du XVI^e au XIX^e siècle : son delta pouvait accueillir les grands navires tandis que des petites embarcations assuraient la navette avec l'intérieur des terres. Il n'est toutefois plus navigable aujourd'hui en raison de l'ensablement qui, en outre, fait que la ville n'est plus une île.

En tant que principal centre commercial de la région, Vigan entretenait des liens commerciaux directs avec la Chine. En tant qu'escale dans le commerce par galion entre Manille et Acapulco, qui dura pendant toute la période coloniale espagnole, elle fournissait des marchandises qui traversaient le Pacifique à destination du Mexique puis de là gagnaient l'Europe en traversant l'Atlantique. Ces liens commerciaux ont favorisé des échanges constants entre les peuples et les cultures Ilocanos, philippins, chinois, espagnols et (au XX^e siècle) américains du nord.

Description

Vigan est située dans le delta de l'Abra, en bordure de la plaine côtière de la Mer de Chine, près de l'extrémité nord est de l'île de Luçon.

Le territoire municipal actuel couvre environ 27km². Il est divisé en neuf districts urbains (*poblaciones*) et trente villages ruraux (*barangays*). Près de la moitié de la superficie est encore consacrée à l'agriculture. La partie historique de la ville, qui est proposé pour

inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial, occupe une superficie de 17,25ha délimitée en deux endroits par les cours d'eau Govantes et Mestizo.

Le plan espagnol traditionnel de la ville en damier comporte une place principale en L, la place Salcedo dans la partie la plus longue et la place Burgos dans la plus courte. La première est dominée par la Mairie et le Capitole provincial et la seconde par la cathédrale.

Le plan de la ville est conforme au modèle urbain en quadrillé de la Renaissance décrit dans la *Ley de las Indias* qui s'applique à toutes les villes nouvelles de l'empire espagnol. Vigan se distingue cependant des villes de l'empire colonial espagnol implantées en Amérique latine par son centre historique (que l'on appelle Mestizo), où la tradition latine est tempérée par de fortes influences chinoises, Ilocanos et philippines. Comme son nom l'indique, dans ce quartier s'installèrent de riches familles métisses d'origine chinoise et Ilocano.

Les matériaux de construction utilisés à Vigan sont la terre cuite, le bois, les coquillages (*kapis*), la pierre et la chaux, qui sont des matériaux provenant de la région. L'architecture typique de la maison de Vigan s'inspire de l'habitation philippine traditionnelle, la *bahay kubo*, qui est une petite case d'une pièce construite en matériaux légers tressés (bois, bambous et paille) et reposant sur pilotis pour la ventilation et la protection contre les inondations de la mousson.

On ne trouve plus de ces maisons à Vigan, mais leur influence est discernable dans les maisons de pierre de plus grandes dimensions que sont les *bahay na bato*. Celles-ci possèdent une structure beaucoup plus solide, le niveau inférieur est construit en pierre et il est surmonté d'un étage à pans de bois et d'un toit à forte pente recouvert de tuiles, inspiré de l'architecture traditionnelle chinoise. Les murs extérieurs de l'étage supérieur sont percés de panneaux vitrés décorés de coquillages *kapis* et encadrés de bois, qui coulisent pour assurer une meilleure ventilation. La plupart des bâtiments existants ont probablement été construits entre le milieu du XVIII^e siècle et la fin du XIX^e siècle. Peu ont échappé aux réorganisations internes qu'il a fallu réaliser pour suivre l'évolution des usages qui a accompagné le déclin de la prospérité de la ville.

Les marchands et les négociants chinois menaient leurs affaires dans les bureaux et les entrepôts situés au rez-de-chaussée de leur maison, leur habitation se trouvait au niveau supérieur. Cette pratique est typique de la société chinoise et on peut l'observer dans d'autres villes d'Asie comme Penang, Singapour et les quartiers les plus anciens de Bangkok.

Le paysage urbain qui en résulte est d'une qualité spécifique qui ne se retrouve nulle part ailleurs. C'est une manifestation unique de la nature multiculturelle de la société philippine, laquelle résulte du mélange harmonieux d'éléments Ilocanos, philippins, chinois et nord américains et qui, au total, produit un ensemble homogène.

Outre l'architecture commerciale et résidentielle, Vigan possède un certain nombre de bâtiments publics qui eux aussi montrent des influences multiculturelles. Parmi ceux-ci, il faut citer la cathédrale Saint Paul (1790-

1800), le Palais de l'archevêché (1783), le collège Saint Paul (1892), la chapelle du cimetière catholique (1852), et le Capitole provincial de style néoclassique élevé au début du XX^e siècle.

Gestion et protection

Statut juridique

Vigan est actuellement protégée au niveau national par les instruments juridiques suivants :

- Décret présidentiel No 374, 1974 "modifiant certains articles de ... la Loi sur la protection et la préservation des biens culturels" ;
- Décret présidentiel No 756, 1975 "modifiant le décret présidentiel No 260 afin d'inclure dans son champ le quartier Mestizo, les maisons du père José Burgos et de Leona Florentino" ;
- Décret présidentiel No 1505, XIX78 "modifiant le décret présidentiel No 260, tel qu'amendé, visant à interdire toutes modification, altération, réfection et démolition non autorisées d'éléments architectoniques d'origine dans tous les sanctuaires, monuments et autres édifices nationaux importants"
- Décret-loi No 358, 1996 "créant une Commission présidentielle pour la restauration, la conservation et le préservation du village historique de Vigan"

Une nouvelle "Loi prévoyant la protection et la préservation du patrimoine culturel philippin..." devrait prochainement entrer en vigueur.

Au niveau local, l'Ordonnance No 05 "prévoyant la préservation et la protection des maisons ancestrales et autres biens de Vigan, province d'Ilocos-Sur, en particulier dans le quartier Mestizo" a été promulguée en 1990 par la municipalité de Vigan. A la suite de la deuxième Conférence internationale de Vigan en mars 1997, les Ordonnances municipales suivantes ont été approuvées par le Sangguniang Bayan (conseil municipal) :

- Ordonnance No 12 "définissant le centre et les zones tampon de la ville historique de Vigan ainsi que les paramètres historiques, pédagogiques, esthétiques et économiques qui président à sa préservation et à son développement" ;
- Ordonnance No 14 "définissant les orientations de la politique de conservation de la ville historique de Vigan."

L'Ordonnance qui prévoit la "création d'une Agence pour la conservation de Vigan" est encore à l'étude.

Gestion

Les espaces publics et bâtiments inclus dans la proposition d'inscription ont des régimes de propriété variables. Selon les cas, les bâtiments publics sont la propriété du gouvernement provincial d'Ilocos-Sur, de la municipalité de Vigan ou du diocèse romain catholique de Nueva Segovia, et la plupart d'entre eux sont accessibles au public. Toutes les maisons situées dans le centre de la ville ou dans les zones tampon sont

des propriétés privées qui ne sont pas ouvertes au public.

Le centre de la ville et les zones tampon sont soigneusement définis afin de préserver le tissu et le paysage urbain. Cette mesure a été prise après que la proposition d'inscription ait été différée en 1987 du fait que les zones n'étaient pas correctement délimitées.

La responsabilité de la préservation du centre historique incombe officiellement à la Commission du Patrimoine Historique de Vigan créée par le décret-loi No 358 de 1996, en collaboration avec la municipalité de Vigan. De plus, la Commission entretient des liens avec la direction du Tourisme, l'Institut historique national, le Musée national, l'Administration Intra-muros (Manille), la Commission nationale pour la culture et les arts et les organisations non gouvernementales impliquées dans la conservation de la ville. Les biens de l'Eglise sont administrés par la Commission archidiocésaine pour la conservation du patrimoine culturel de l'Eglise.

Dans l'attente de la création de l'Agence spécialisée pour la conservation, la gestion quotidienne est assurée par la municipalité de Vigan.

Un série de plan d'occupation des sols et autres plans prend en compte les besoins particuliers de Vigan à des degrés divers. Parmi ceux-ci :

- Plan directeur national du tourisme aux Philippines, 1991- 2010 ;
- Plan de conservation du centre historique de Vigan, 1995 (Tourconsult/International pour la Commission de l'Union européenne) ;
- Plan directeur du développement du tourisme pour la Région I, 1992 ; Vigan, 1995 (direction du Tourisme) ;
- Plan de développement du Nord-Ouest de Luzon (Northwestern Luzon Growth Quadrangle Development Plan, 1995, Projet USAid) ;
- Plan d'investissement pour le Nord-Ouest de Luzon (Investment Promotion Package for the Northwestern Luzon Growth Quadrangle, 1997, Projet USAid) ;
- Mise en application des lois et réglementations : Plan d'action, 1996 (Commission du patrimoine de Vigan).

La deuxième Conférence internationale pour la conservation et le développement de Vigan, qui s'est tenue en 1997, a préparé plusieurs projets de politiques et d'ordonnances pour le développement et la préservation de la cité historique.

Des négociations sont actuellement en cours avec la Agencia Española de la Cooperación Internacional pour la préparation d'un "Plan global de conservation et de développement de Vigan".

Les fonds alloués aux projets de conservation proviennent actuellement du budget limité de la municipalité de Vigan. Les organisations non gouvernementales locales étudient des mécanismes de collectes de fonds ; des projets spécifiques ont bénéficié de financements privés. Une fois constituée, la Commission du patrimoine de Vigan, qui sera chargée

de coordonner les programmes de conservation de la ville, recevra des fonds du gouvernement national.

Conservation et authenticité

Historique de la conservation

En 1975, le Musée national a entrepris une première action de sensibilisation des propriétaires et administrateurs de biens historiques à Vigan à la nécessité de suivre des règles de conservation appropriées. A cet effet un séminaire a été organisé au cours duquel il fut question du patrimoine de la ville et de la nécessité de le préserver. A l'issue de ce séminaire, un groupe d'architectes et d'ingénieurs a été mandaté par le Musée pour réaliser une étude sur les biens et mener une mission de conseil auprès des propriétaires sur les mesures de conservation nécessaires. Le manque de financement a cependant limité l'impact de cette action.

Le Plan de conservation du centre historique de Vigan, 1995 (se reporter plus haut) a effectué une enquête sur les bâtiments existants (56 maisons comportant un étage supérieur en bois, 130 maisons entièrement construites en maçonnerie ou briques), et constaté que 86 de ces structures étaient en bon état et 84 dans un état de conservation médiocre à mauvais.

Un inventaire détaillé de 120 maisons, financé par la Fondation Toyota, a été effectué en 1996 afin de servir de base au futur projet de conservation.

Authenticité

Le tracé des rues est totalement authentique et entièrement conforme au plan dessiné par les Espagnols au XVI^e siècle. L'authenticité de l'ensemble du paysage urbain et des espaces publics est également élevé.

Pour ce qui concerne les bâtiments, le manque de réglementation sur la conservation s'est traduit par l'utilisation de matériaux modernes comme l'acier galvanisé en remplacement des tuiles de couverture.

La prise de conscience de la nécessité de préserver l'authenticité de Vigan est récente. On voit émerger des pratiques de restauration et de conservation qui respectent l'authenticité de la ville laquelle a évolué au cours des siècles et qui puisent dans les ressources considérables que constituent les métiers traditionnels qui survivent aux Philippines.

Evaluation

Action de l'ICOMOS

Une mission d'expertise de l'ICOMOS a visité Vigan en janvier 1999. L'ICOMOS a également consulté son Comité scientifique international sur les villes et villages historiques.

Caractéristiques

Vigan est unique parmi les villes des Philippines car c'est la seule qui conserve en grande partie intacte son caractère colonial espagnol. Elle se distingue également par la manière dont les différentes traditions architecturales – européennes, Ilocanos, philippines et

chinoises – se sont alliées pour créer un paysage urbain homogène de grande importance culturelle.

Analyse comparative

Vigan appartient à un groupe de grandes villes commerçantes d'Extrême-Orient dans lesquelles se mêlent des éléments asiatiques et européens, comme Malacca, Macao, Singapour et Hoi An. L'exemple le plus proche est probablement Hoi An où l'on trouve le même type de construction, combinant magasin et habitation, fortement influencé par le modèle chinois.

Vigan est cependant unique en ce qu'elle est la seule de ce groupe à conserver intact le plan rigide à damier de villes coloniales espagnoles. Les seuls exemples de ce type d'urbanisme parvenus jusqu'à nous se trouvent en Amérique latine, mais ceux-ci ne présentent pas la fusion multiculturelle de Vigan.

Observations et recommandations de l'ICOMOS pour les actions futures

La proposition d'inscription de Vigan sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial a été examinée par le Comité lors de sa 13^e Session à Paris en décembre 1989. Le Comité a recommandé qu'elle ne soit pas inscrite sur la Liste, mais a exceptionnellement "suggéré que les autorités philippines contactent l'ICOMOS et le Secrétariat afin d'étudier la possibilité d'élaborer une nouvelle proposition d'inscription composée d'éléments particulièrement significatifs du patrimoine historique très spécifique des Philippines" (Rapport du Comité, XIV.46.C).

L'ICOMOS avait recommandé le rejet en 1989 du fait que "ce bien culturel ne montrait pas d'exemplarité suffisante, et les caractéristiques urbaines et architecturales de Vigan n'étaient en aucun cas comparables à celles des villes espagnoles des Caraïbes comme Carthagène (Colombie) ou Trinidad (Cuba)." L'ICOMOS reconnaît maintenant que la comparaison avec les villes coloniales espagnoles d'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes n'est pas pertinente car les villes historiques doivent être évaluées dans un contexte régional et non pas mondial.

La mission d'expert qui a visité Vigan en Janvier 1999 a fait un certain nombre d'observations qui devraient être rapportées à l'Etat partie :

- Des modifications mineures sont suggérées concernant la délimitation de la zone centrale historique. Le collège de Vigan « Divine Word » situé dans la partie nord-est de la zone centrale, qui est une structure moderne à quatre niveaux, doit être exclu, de même que certains bâtiments dont l'usage ne convient pas (magasin de boissons, pompe à essence).
- De même, les limites de la zone tampon devraient être modifiées de manière à exclure l'ancienne école centrale de Vigan qui sert maintenant d'annexe à la gare terminale routière.
- La mission s'inquiète de ce que la Commission du patrimoine de Vigan, créée en 1996, ne soit pas complètement opérationnelle, apparemment par manque de personnel professionnel. Il y a également un problème de dédoublement des responsabilités

entre la Commission et le Musée national, qui est l'organisme auquel toutes les demandes relatives aux bâtiments historiques protégés doivent être adressées.

- L'ordonnance municipale devant créer l'Agence pour la Conservation était sur le point d'obtenir l'agrément lorsque la mission a eu lieu. Etant donné qu'elle prévoit la constitution d'une équipe de spécialistes de la conservation, l'ICOMOS craint que cela ne crée un problème de répartition des tâches dans un avenir proche.

L'ICOMOS recommande qu'il soit demandé à l'Etat partie : a. de modifier légèrement les limites des zones centrale et tampon de manière à les rendre plus conformes pour l'inscription sur la Liste du Patrimoine mondial et b. de délimiter clairement les responsabilités et les compétences de chaque organisme - existant et en cours de création - impliqué dans la préservation de la ville historique, afin d'éviter tout conflit d'autorité et une éventuelle répétition du travail.

Breve description

Vigan est l'exemple le plus intact de ville coloniale espagnole fondée au XVI^e siècle en Asie. Son architecture reflète la réunion d'éléments culturels en provenance d'autres régions des Philippines, de Chine et d'Europe, ce qui crée une culture unique et un paysage urbain sans équivalent en Extrême-Orient.

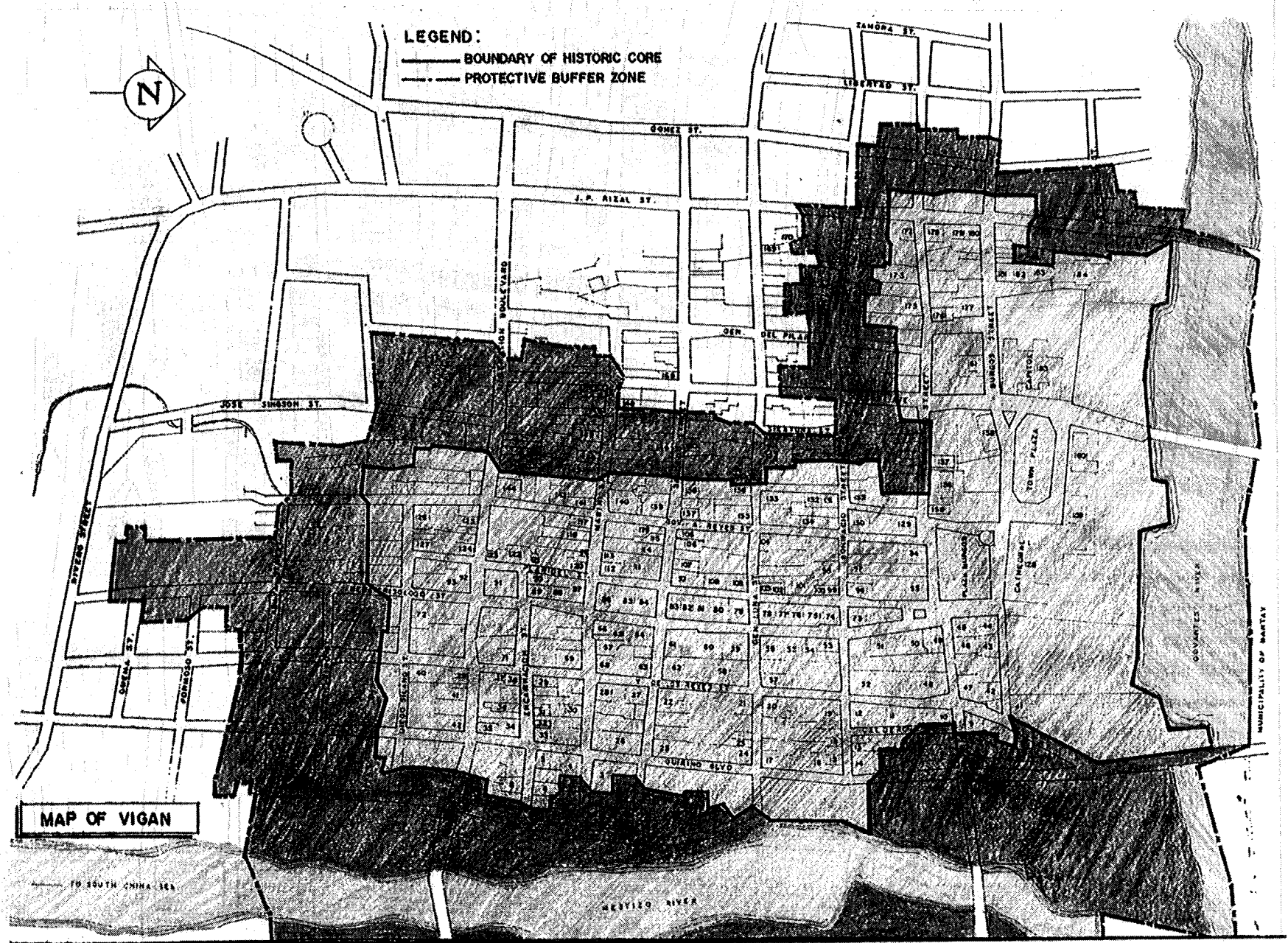
Recommandation

Le Bureau a recommandé que cette proposition d'inscription soit *renvoyée* à l'Etat partie, en demandant que la modification des limites de la zone proposée pour inscription et de sa zone tampon, comme le suggère l'ICOMOS, et la définition claire et sans ambiguïté de la structure de conservation du bien proposé soient fournies pour le 1^{er} octobre. Ces informations ne sont pas arrivées au moment où cette évaluation est préparée pour l'impression. Si ces informations sont fournies et jugées acceptables, l'ICOMOS recommande que le bien soit inscrit sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial sur la base des *critères ii et iv* :

Critère ii Vigan représente une alliance unique de la conception architecturale et de la construction asiatiques avec les caractéristiques urbanistiques et architecturales coloniales européennes.

Critère iv Vigan est un exemple exceptionnellement intact et bien préservé de ville commerçante européenne en Extrême-Orient.

ICOMOS, septembre 1999



La ville historique de Vigan / The Historic town of Vigan :
 Plan du site / Site plan