

Quezon Memorial now a cultural treasure

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The 66-meter monument has gained distinction with its three connected pylons, the top of which boasts of an observation deck that can provide 60 people a panoramic view of the city.

The Quezon Memorial Shrine, a monument dedicated to the late President Manuel L. Quezon, is now a National Cultural Treasure.

Located within the grounds of the Quezon Memorial Circle, the monument that houses a museum at its base, has received the highest government distinction that can be conferred on a cultural property.

Through Museum Declaration 29, the National Museum finally recognized after several deliberations by a panel of experts the importance of the shrine.

The **Quezon City government** hailed the declaration that gave the city its second National Cultural Treasure after the Sto. Domingo Church was declared as such in 2012 during the enthronement rites of the image of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, La Naval de Manila.

Republic Act 10066, or the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, defines National Cultural Treasures as properties possessing “outstanding historical, cultural, artistic or scientific value.”

Arch. Federico Ilustre of the Bureau of Public Works, now the Department of Public Works and Highways, designed the Quezon Memorial after then-President Sergio Osmeña in December 1945 issued an order for its construction.

But Ilustre’s bureau only commenced construction of the monument in 1952. It was formally designated as a national shrine in 1974 and was inaugurated on 19 August 1978.

On 1 August 1979, the remains of Quezon were transferred to the shrine from the Manila North Cemetery. In 2005, the remains of Quezon’s wife, Aurora Aragon Quezon, were likewise transferred to the shrine.

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The deck, presently closed to the public, is accessible from the bottom structure through a spiral staircase.

“Many thanks to the National Museum of the Philippines under the leadership of Director General Jeremy Barns. It is a great honor to have this unique recognition that also reflects the colorful history and culture of Quezon City,”

Mayor Belmonte said.

Quezon Memorial Shrine museum is open Tuesdays to Saturdays, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.