

# JuanGuide

## Heritage Walk

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# San Juan Nepomuceno Church



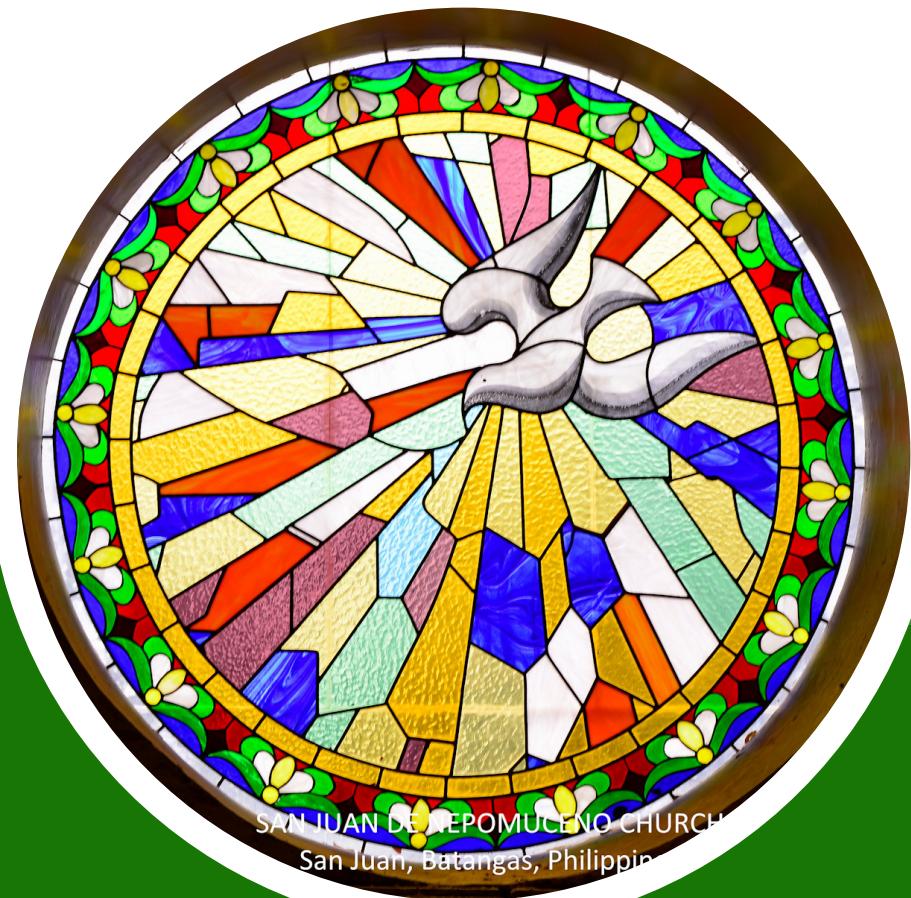
P. Burgos St. Poblacion, San Juan, Batangas

San Juan Nepomuceno Parish Church is a colonial-era church dedicated to the town's patron saint. The parish began in 1843 in the old town called Pinagbayanan, the first town of San Juan. The original church was made of palm, bamboo, and coconut lumber.

*"To serve and not to be served"*

On August 10, 1855, through the initiative of Fr. Damaso Mojica, a church made of stones was built. However, floods destroyed the church some 28 years later. In 1894, it was transferred to its present site and was formally inaugurated that same year. A bell tower was attached to the building between 1928 and 1935.

Since then, the church has undergone regular maintenance and upkeep, with the most major renovations undertaken in 1995. Nevertheless, the facade of San Juan Nepomuceno Church has managed to retain its Spanish-era architecture and design. However, its interiors have been refurbished with more durable materials.



Just in front of the church stands an arch, where one of the three original bells from the church's early days hangs. Despite its worn appearance, it is a significant symbol of how wealthy families like the Mercado and Marasigan clans actively supported the church.



# San Juan Nepomuceno Church Bell



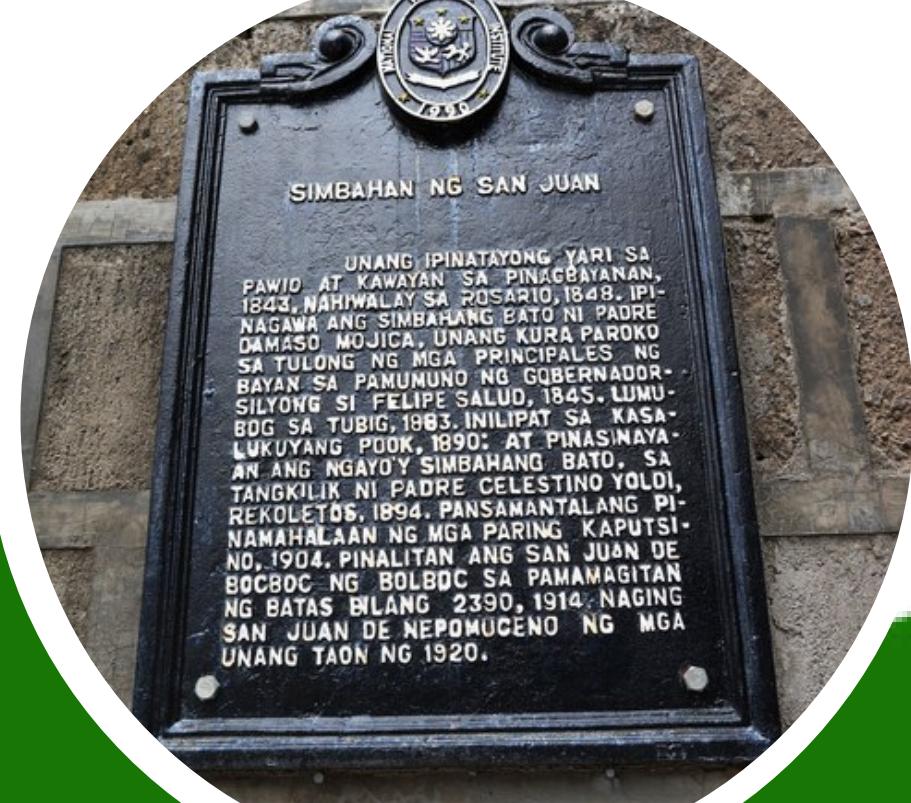
P. Burgos St. Poblacion, San Juan, Batangas

The bell tower of the San Juan Nepomuceno Parish Church is a significant feature of the structure. Designed in the High Renaissance style, the square bell tower is located on the church's right



The bell tower of the San Juan Nepomuceno Parish Church is a remarkable feature of the church. It was added to the building between 1928 and 1935. The bell tower is designed in the High Renaissance style, which is characterized by its symmetry, proportion, and geometry.

The bell tower is square in shape and is located on the right side of the church<sup>1</sup>. It features cantons at its corners and semicircular arched windows<sup>1</sup>. The lower level of the bell tower is pedimented, which means it has a triangular or arched element that crowns a facade<sup>1</sup>



The square bell tower, on the church's right, designed in the High Renaissance style, has cantons at its corners and semicircular arched windows (pedimented at the lower level). Its uppermost level is octagonal in plan and is topped by a spire.





# Batangas Eastern Colleges Grounds

📍 1 Javier St, San Juan, Batangas

Behind the church, within the campus grounds of Batangas Eastern Colleges , you'll find centuries-old acacia trees that have witnessed significant events in the town's history. It was here that Batangueño revolutionary General Miguel Malvar handed his sword to Kapitan Leon Mercado. Both figures played prominent roles in the revolution against the Spaniards and later against the Americans during the war.







# Benito Marasigan Ruins and Museum



R9FV+VJG, Marasigan St, San Juan, Batangas



Just three blocks away from the church lie the remnants of what was once a grand neoclassical-style mansion, built between 1929 and 1930. Today, it is known as the Benito Marasigan Ruins and Museum. Originally a three-story mansion, the upper floors were tragically destroyed in 2009 due to a fire caused by sunlight passing through the glass windows and igniting the wooden frames. The ground floor, however, remains intact. In 2015, a rehabilitated exhibit space was opened, showcasing the mansion's elegant chandelier, ornate chairs, and a massive 20-seater table made from a single giant tree trunk. The permanent display tells the story of how the Marasigan family contributed to preserving the natural environment by preventing the establishment of a Copper Smelter in San Juan Batangas.



This neoclassical style house was owned by Zaldy Marasigan's great grandfather who wanted his abode to symbolize the coconut industry which was the source of income during the 1930s.





# Casa Louella



Rizal St, Poblacion, San Juan, 4226 Batangas



Closer to the church stands another captivating American-era mansion called Casa Louella , named after the daughter of its current owners, Custodio Marasigan Ona and Guadalupe Ona. The mansion was originally built by the Triviño-Magtibay family in the early 1900s. The second owner was Vicente Lecaroz, a former mayor of San Juan, and a nephew of Benito Marasigan, owner of the Benito Marasigan Mansion. His family occupied the house during his term as mayor. When his children grew up, the house was often empty, and decided to sell it in 1994.







# Casa Soledad



R9GV+CFC, Mojica St, San Juan,  
Batangas



Found at the corner of Mojica St and De Villa St, Casa Soledad is one of the grand heritage houses that has retained its traditional “bahay na bato” Spanish architecture. The house is named after Soledad, one of the four children of the original owners, Santos Lopez and Maria Mercado (a relative of the national hero, Jose Rizal). Soledad Lopez’s siblings were Don Miguel Lopez (a former mayor of San Juan), Arsenio Lopez, and Leonor Lopez. The house initially belonged to Leonor, the youngest of the siblings, but Soledad eventually acquired it after getting married.

Casa Soledad still proudly displays its massive wooden pillars and ceiling beams. Noteworthy among its treasures is a life-size foto-oleo (oil-paint enhanced photograph by Sun Studios) of Leonor wearing a Filipiniana dress adorned with actual sequins. Additionally, keep an eye out for precolonial jars excavated from an archaeological site in Calubcub Segundo.





# The White House San Juan



Along Marasigan Street, Corner Kalayaan St,  
Poblacion, San Juan, 4226 Batangas

Situated at the corner of Marasigan St and Kalayaan St, The White House San Juan is another well-preserved Neoclassical Art Deco house known as the Aguedo Mercado Mansion . Built in 1934, the house miraculously survived the destruction of war. Today, this two-story mansion has been rebranded as The White House San Juan since its acquisition by Neil and Joy Marundan in 2021.

The White House San Juan now serves as an events venue and cafe. While it has been well-maintained and partially modernized with additions like a modern kitchen, and air conditioning. Some old pieces of furniture were refurbished to retain their original charm. The original macuha tiles, intricate ornamental details, and impressive octagonal corners on one side of the house are still intact.







# Cafeno

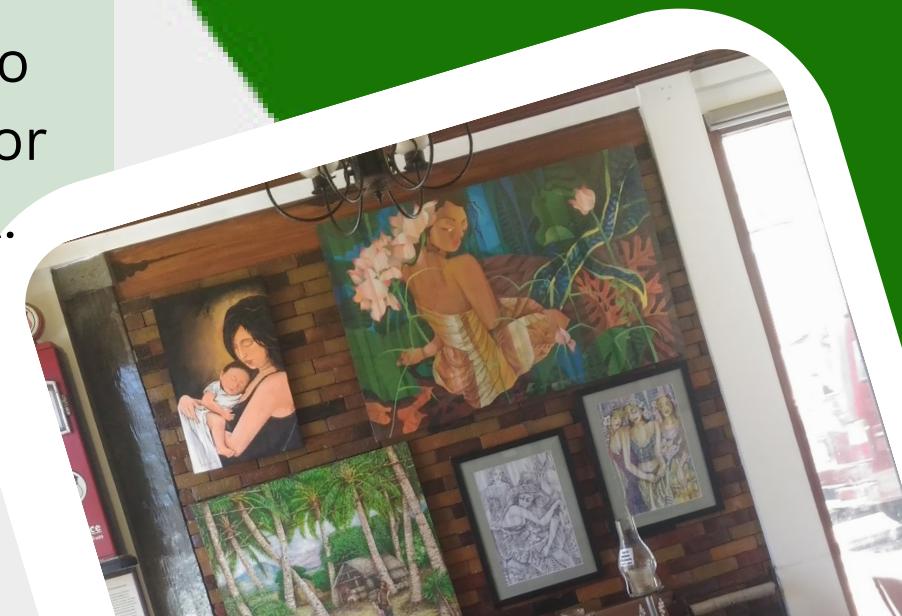
9 Gen. Luna St, San Juan, 4226 Batangas



The classic Spanish-inspired Cafeno Cafe in Poblacion, San Juan caters high quality coffee beans from local farmers. Aside from their coffee and pastry, their home-made ice cream is a must try!

CAFEÑO is a heritage house from the year 1890 of Apolonio Marasigan and Araceli Lecaroz. Their beautiful home eventually turned into a CAFE in 2006 and since then people traveling to Batangas or even locals of Batangas stop here for a taste of their famous BARAKO KONDENSADA.

The shop also is a living museum that promotes the cultural town of Bolboc in San Juan, so when you're on your way to Laiya give Cafeno Cafe a quick visit and taste Batangas' finest.







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