

Article

Heritage for the Future: Harnessing Stories of a State University Historical Sites for Achieving Promotion and Development

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Abstract

This research delves into the descriptions and stories and the extent of the characteristics of the sites of Central Philippines State University-Main Campus, Philippines, addressing the defacing and vanishing structures within the school. There are 11 informants involved in the study through snowball sampling. Using a mixed method, this study presented qualitative data for the narratives of the descriptions and stories of sites through a researcher-made questionnaire and quantitative data for the extent of characteristics of the sites through an adapted questionnaire from the Tourism Guidebook for Local Government Units with the parameters as to uniqueness and appeal, educational/economic/historical/cultural value, accessibility, availability of basic utilities, and availability of onsite facilities, using the Likert Scale measurement criteria of 1-not evident, 2-slightly evident, 3-fairly evident, 4-quite evident, and 5-very evident. The findings revealed fourteen (14) well-known sites situated at the perimeter area of Central Philippines State University. The descriptions and stories of the historical sites vary according to their structure and the narration of the informants. As gleaned from the findings, the strength of the sites was in the educational, economic, historical, and cultural values, which were marked as quite evident. The uniqueness and appeal were quite evident. The accessibility of the historical sites and the availability of basic utilities were slightly evident. The onsite facilities are not evident. The historical sites, in general, possess fairly evident characteristics. Hence, there is a need to create a site development framework for their promotion and development.

Keywords: *development, heritage, historical sites, promotion, stories*

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Introduction

Historical sites are unique symbols of the identity of the people. The tangibles are the history of the people's voice into the present and the future. Stories are told about the historical sites and how they became what they are, and that helps people understand who they are (Solomon et al., 2022). The turn of the millennium witnessed brutal attacks on the memory of man. The era of globalization and modernization, where development phenomena insidiously create the erosion of cultural heritage (Zerrudo, 2019).

Like any other place in the country, Central Philippines State University-Main Campus, a public higher education institution in the Philippines, has rich sites throughout history. However, some sites were defaced in structure, while others had already vanished in the school. Hence, preserving those sites can be important to building a healthy community.

Numerous research studies have explored preserving and promoting heritage sites, often focusing on cultural sensitivity, conservation efforts, and community empowerment. For instance, Mekonnen et al. (2022) investigated the practices and challenges associated with cultural heritage conservation, while Semwal (2024) emphasized the importance of cultural sensitivity in heritage site management, highlighting its role in preserving cultural authenticity and enhancing visitor experiences. Building on these foundations, the present study aims to examine the descriptions, narratives, and defining characteristics of historical sites within the school setting. The objective is to encourage greater public engagement with these dynamic heritage spaces and to inform the expansion of existing programs for their promotion and preservation. This includes an in-depth exploration of current initiatives and strategies to sustain these sites' cultural and historical value.

Guided by the national agenda of the Philippines for heritage preservation to strengthen the conservation and protection of national cultural heritage through legislation and education, as well as promoting community-based heritage initiatives, complementary to the global agenda driven by Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) for heritage preservation is centered on safeguarding both cultural and natural heritage, recognizing their significance for cultural identity, sustainable development, and future generations, this study will create a plan for the enthusiasm and escalation growth of the framework to demonstrate the potential for harnessing heritage to assist in achieving sustainable development. This study will serve as a wake-up call and an eye-opener for Central Philippines State University to develop and promote its sites to the public so that stories remain a part of people's everyday lives.

Methodology

Research Locale

This study was conducted at Central Philippines State University (CPSU) – Main Campus, located in Barangay Camingawan, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, Philippines. The campus occupies a land reservation of approximately 4,653.7 hectares and is situated 19 kilometers from Kabankalan City and 17 kilometers from Mabinay, Oriental Negros. Strategically positioned at the heart of Negros Island, CPSU lies 108 kilometers from Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, and 97 kilometers from Dumaguete City, Oriental Negros. The campus is home to various historical sites, many of which have significant potential as tourist attractions.

Research Design

The study utilized a mixed-methods approach, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The qualitative component aimed to capture rich, descriptive narratives of the historical sites, while the quantitative component was used to measure the extent of the sites' characteristics. Qualitative data were gathered through in-depth interviews with key informants, and quantitative data were collected via a structured survey questionnaire adapted from the Tourism Guidebook for Local Government Units.

Participants and Sampling Procedure

The key informants consisted of eleven (11) individuals who are long-time residents of the area within the CPSU Main Campus and retired institution personnel. All were aged 60 years and above and possessed first-hand knowledge of the historical sites. The researchers employed a snowball sampling technique, beginning with one identified informant who referred additional individuals deemed knowledgeable about the sites. Data saturation was reached with the eleventh informant, as recurring information and themes indicated that no new or significant insights were emerging. This confirmed that the sample size was sufficient to meet the study's objectives.

Data Analysis

Narrative analysis was used to process the qualitative data, focusing on the descriptions and oral histories of the sites as shared by the informants. For the quantitative data, the extent of the characteristics of the historical sites was assessed using a five-point Likert scale:

- 1 – Not evident
- 2 – Slightly evident
- 3 – Fairly evident
- 4 – Quite evident
- 5 – Very evident

Ethical Considerations

Informants' recruitment and participation were conducted strictly using ethical research practices. Given the advanced age of the participants, the researchers took special care to be respectful and considerate of their physical, emotional, and time-related needs. Written consent was secured prior to participation, and informants were thoroughly briefed on the study's purpose, procedures, and their rights as participants. Participation was entirely voluntary, with the option to decline to answer specific questions or to withdraw from the study at any point without any penalties or loss of benefits. Interviews were scheduled at the convenience of the informants, and their privacy and confidentiality were strictly maintained. All information provided was handled with transparency and free from coercion or misleading emphasis.

Results and Discussion

Descriptions and Stories of the Sites of Central Philippines State University-Main Campus

This section presents the description, narratives of the stories, analysis, and interpretation of the survey results conducted in the 14 sites in Central Philippines State University-Main Campus. It is divided into two topics: the site presented with photographs and their respective description and stories, and the extent of characteristics of the sites in tabular form.

The Old Administration Building

The Old Administration Building is situated approximately 800 meters northeast of the main gate of Central Philippines State University (CPSU), along Mango Avenue, directly opposite the College of Teacher Education Building. The structure, characterized by its two spacious rooms separated by a 10-foot-wide lobby extending 24 feet in length, originally featured a long-streamlined canopy on the eastern façade. Adjacent to this area was an annex known as the Administration Office. Prior to its construction, the site was occupied by a structure known as the Vo-Ag Building, which also housed the university library at the time.

The Old Administration Building was designed as a two-story edifice and served multiple administrative and academic functions. It housed key institutional offices such as the Superintendent's Office, Bookkeeper's Office, Auditor's Office, and the Farm Manager's Office—particularly after the original Farm Manager's Office deteriorated. In addition to its administrative use, the building accommodated six classrooms and was positioned beside the university clinic. Its strategic location also made it the site for official flag ceremonies, with the flagpole installed at the building's

front. The structure was built with galvanized iron roofing and cement flooring, and its original design remains largely intact to this day.

Over the years, the building evolved in its purpose. At one point, it functioned as the University Library. Today, it serves as the Historical and Cultural Heritage Center adjacent to the Accreditation Building, highlighting its enduring legacy in the university's institutional memory.

Photograph 1. Old Administration Building



Photo Credits to CPSU Planning Office



Photo Credits to the Historical and Cultural Heritage Center



Photo by: Mary Grace Noreen P. Leduna

According to key informants, Mr. Joanary Parcon and Mrs. Susan Parcon, both alumni of the former Negros Occidental National Agricultural School (NONAS) and graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, the Old Administration Building was constructed between 1976 and 1977. Superintendent Mr. Augusto Bengan and Principal Mr. Arturo Landiza oversaw its development.

The building's role as a library is closely tied to the history of CPSU's librarianship. Ms. Majelende M. Khoyute served as the university librarian from 1975 until 1986 before taking a leave of absence to attend to personal matters in Iloilo City. Mrs. Sylvia Landiza assumed the role during her absence from 1986 to 1987. Briefly,

Ms. Rosalie Cacaldo also served as a librarian prior to transferring to what is now ISAT-U (Iloilo Science and Technology University).

Ms. Khoyute resumed her post in 1987 and continued until 1997. During this period, she married Mr. Nestor Alonzagay, a College Instructor and son of a former NONAS Administrator. Upon Mr. Alonzagay's passing, Ms. Khoyute (now Mrs. Majelende K. Alonzagay) eventually left the post once again. She was succeeded by Mrs. Thessa Muscasa, who served from 1997 to 2006 before leaving for work abroad. Subsequently, Mrs. Nenita Francisco, a science teacher, was designated acting librarian.

Since 2009, Mr. Julius R. Fetiluna has held the position of University Librarian and continues to serve in this role at the time of the study.

The Clemente Sports Complex

The Clemente Sports Complex is located approximately 800 meters north of the main gate of Central Philippines State University. It is situated in Purok Macasaet, now known as Purok CPSU I. The original structure of the Clemente Sports Complex was made of lumber. Although its structural design has since been modified, the current building remains patterned after the original. The roof was made of galvanized iron, and the floor was wooden. The gymnasium was also constructed from wood, and its original design featured extended structures called palayas on both sides. Inside, the gymnasium was surrounded by chairs.

Mr. Roberto Lescano Segura and Mrs. Columba Parcon Segura, both retired faculty members of NSCA and identified as informants number 3 and 4, explained that the Clemente Sports Complex was formerly known as the School Gymnasium. The site held great significance, as nearly all school activities were conducted there. Students were each assigned a plot of land to farm as part of their agricultural training. During harvest season, the gymnasium served as a shaded area for crop processing. It was commonly called the Corn Depot, where agricultural products were shelled and dried.

The Farm Manager would frequently suspend regular classwork so that students, particularly the girls, could assist in harvesting and processing their produce, allowing them to engage in and enjoy the fruits of their labor fully. An annual Corn Festival was held to encourage increased agricultural production among students.

The gymnasium was also utilized for convocations, programs, social gatherings, graduation ceremonies, and basketball games. It was renamed the Clemente Sports Complex sometime in 2002 in honor of Dr. Dominador D. Clemente, the first principal of NONAS (1946).

According to oral accounts, before the gymnasium was constructed, the site was believed to have been a cemetery of the Bukidnon Indigenous Peoples. The area was also once inhabited by the Colagnos family, who later relocated to Lukay.

Photograph 2. Clemente Sports Complex

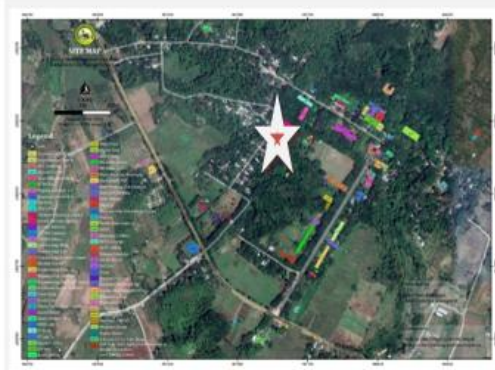


Photo Credits to CPSU Planning Office



Photo Credits to: Mrs. Columba Parcon Segura



Photo by: Mary Grace Noreen P. Leduna

The Homemakers' Home

The Homemakers' Home is located approximately 700 meters northeast of the main gate of Central Philippines State University (CPSU). It is positioned at the left-rear portion of the New Administration Building and to the right of the Procurement Building. The structure, now known as the Scholarship Office, was originally a two-story wooden building designed to accommodate students. Its roof was made of galvanized iron, and the upper floor provided rooms for female students.

According to Mr. Roberto Lescano Segura and Mrs. Columba Parcon Segura, both retired faculty members of the former Negros State College of Agriculture (NSCA) and identified as informants number 3 and 4, the Negros Occidental National Agricultural School (NONAS) was established 19 kilometers from the town center of Kabankalan. Due to its distance from the town proper, the institution provided approximately 30 cottages as free housing facilities for teachers and staff. These cottages were equipped with water and lighting systems. Electricity was sourced from

hydroelectric power, while the water supply came from Banga Creek, which also powered the hydroelectric system.

Male students were allowed to build their own cottages on campus, while female students were given the privilege of staying at the Homemakers' Home, commonly referred to as the Girls' Dormitory. The second floor served as their living quarters. The ground floor housed the school clinic, which was managed at one time by Mr. Añonuevo, the school nurse. Adjacent to the clinic were the Mess Hall and the kitchen, where dormitory occupants could prepare their meals.

Photograph 3. The Homemakers' Home/Girls' Dorm (Now Scholarship Office)

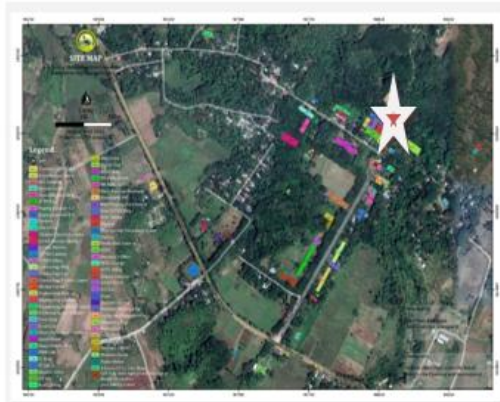


Photo Credits to CPSU Planning Office



Photo Credits to the Historical and Cultural Heritage Center



Photo by: Antonio C. Layumas III

The Ruin of NONAS

The Ruin of NONAS is located approximately 900 meters northeast of the main gate of Central Philippines State University (CPSU). It stands to the right of the Vo-Ag Building and is the remnant of what was once known as the Academic Building,

constructed in 1950. This one-storey structure originally housed six rooms: two (2) classrooms, two (2) rooms for Guidance and Counseling, one (1) office for the Head of the Academic Department, and the Principal's Office. At one point, the department was led by Mrs. Margarita J. Patnubay.

The building was accessed by a five-step staircase facing west, with a clear view of the flagpole and a paved pathway extending in both directions. The roof was made of galvanized iron. The classrooms were regularly used for teaching core subjects such as General Science, Biology, English, and Mathematics.

Photograph 4. Ruins of NONAS (Academic Building)



Photo Credits to CPSU Planning Office



Photo by: Denver Q. Jaranilla

According to Mr. Joanary Parcon and Mrs. Susan Parcon, both alumni of the Negros Occidental National Agricultural School (NONAS) and graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, the building was known not only for its academic function but also for the discipline and structure it instilled in students. They recalled how the head of the department was known for punctuality, ringing the school bell promptly at 6:00 a.m., followed by a second call at 6:30 a.m. for the flag ceremony held in front of the building near the flagpole.

Tragically, the Academic Building was destroyed by fire in 1986 and has since been left abandoned. Despite its physical decline, the ruins remain a meaningful relic, visited by alumni, students, and even couples, who return to reflect on the rich history and memories associated with the site.

The Lagoon

The lagoon is located approximately 900 meters northeast of the main gate of Central Philippines State University (CPSU). It is situated on the right side of the Vo-Ag Building. The lagoon is a small, shallow body of water surrounded by a variety of trees, creating a serene and shaded natural environment. Locally, the place is

considered enchanted or “*riit*”, as it is believed to be inhabited by unseen or supernatural beings—adding to its mystique and cultural significance within the campus.

The lagoon was once part of the Biological Garden, where both medicinal and ornamental plants were cultivated around its perimeter. The area served as a space for ecological study and a peaceful retreat within the campus grounds.

According to Mr. Eliseo A. Jaravelo and Mr. Jacobo M. Vingno, both retired faculty members of the Negros Occidental National Agricultural School (NONAS) and identified as informants number 8 and 9, the initial clearing and development of the lagoon area was spearheaded by Mr. Claro Abay, then Principal of NONAS, in collaboration with his students. This initiative was later supported and furthered by Mr. Felizardo Alonzagay Sr., who was serving as the institution’s Administrative Officer at the time.

Photograph 5. Lagoon

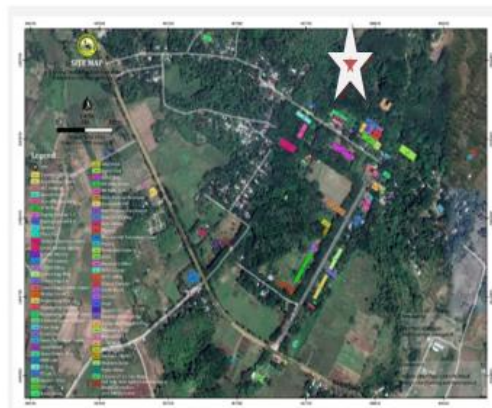


Photo Credits to CPSU Planning Office



Photo by: Forestry 2

The Twin Cave

The Twin Cave is located approximately 1.5 kilometers northeast of the main gate of Central Philippines State University (CPSU) and lies within the perimeter of the university grounds. As its name suggests, the cave features two vertical openings, which give it the distinct designation “Twin Cave.” Each opening is approximately 70 meters deep, and the cave is known to dry out during the dry season. The cave is naturally inhabited by colonies of bats, adding to its secluded and eerie atmosphere.

According to Mr. Eliseo A. Jaravelo, a retired faculty member of the former Negros Occidental National Agricultural School (NONAS) and identified as informant number 8, the Twin Cave was traditionally used by locals as a disposal site for dead animals, particularly carabaos, due to its great depth—eliminating the need for burial.

Water from higher terrain drains into the cave during the rainy season, contributing to its dynamic and potentially dangerous internal structure.

Over the years, the Twin Cave has piqued the curiosity of both locals and outsiders. Mr. Jaravelo recounted an instance where foreign explorers camped at the site for nearly two weeks to conduct an excavation. Despite their efforts, they could not determine the full depth or nature of the cave's passageways, and they left without releasing any official findings. Local beliefs suggest that the cave's subterranean channels may extend as far as the Ilog River.

Because of its depth, instability, and lack of a confirmed base, the Twin Cave is regarded as one of the most dangerous caves in Southern Negros. No known individual has reached its deepest point. Only a single foreigner, long ago, attempted a full descent but was unsuccessful in reaching the cave's bottom.

Photograph 6. The Twin Cave

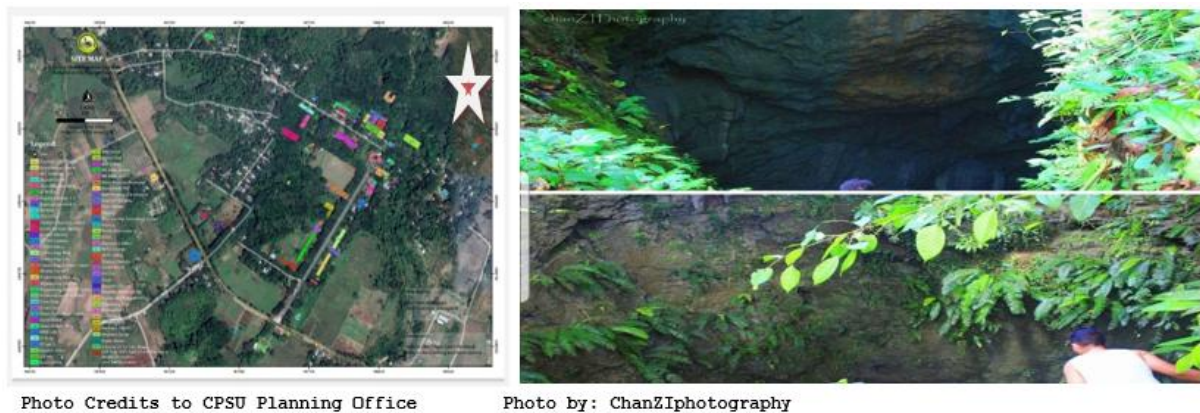


Photo Credits to CPSU Planning Office

Photo by: ChanZiPhotography

The Vocational Agriculture (Vo-Ag) Building

The Vocational Agriculture (Vo-Ag) Building is located approximately 900 meters northeast of the main gate of Central Philippines State University (CPSU). Positioned at the rear portion of the College of Teacher Education Building, the Vo-Ag Building originally comprised eight (8) classrooms, primarily used for agriculture-related instruction. In addition to classroom functions, the building also supported the operations of the school nursery, notably the BCCO (Barangay Community Cooperative Organization). Adjacent to the Vo-Ag was the former university library.

According to Mr. Julio A. Palomar Jr., former Vice President of NSCA; Mrs. Heidi A. Palomar, retired Assistant Professor of NSCA; and Mr. Eliseo Jaravelo, retired faculty member of NONAS, identified as informants numbers 6, 7, and 8, respectively, the two front rooms of the Vo-Ag Building were initially used as the old library, as

well as science and physics classrooms. Other sections of the building were designated for agriculture classes.

One particular room also became the practice area of the “D’Clippers Original,” a local karate club in which Mr. Jaravelo himself was an active member.

Local lore holds that the area is “riit”, a term used to describe enchanted or sacred places, owing to its proximity to the lagoon, which is believed to be the dwelling place of unseen spirits or supernatural beings. This belief adds a cultural and mystical dimension to the Vo-Ag Building’s historical significance on campus.

Photograph 7. The Vocational Agriculture (Vo-Ag) Building

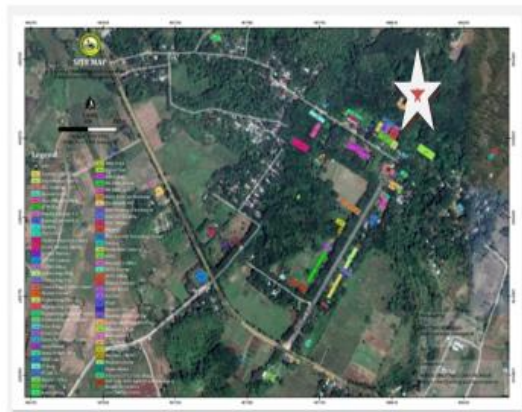


Photo Credits to CPSU Planning Office



Photo by: Antonio C. Layumas III

The Home Economics Building (Now Mount Ballo Hall)

The Home Economics Building, now known as Mount Ballo Hall, is located approximately 500 meters northeast of the main gate of Central Philippines State University (CPSU). It stands on the right side of Abada Avenue and was originally constructed to support the Homemaking curriculum for female students.

The building comprised three specialized rooms: the Food Laboratory, the Clothing Room, and the Handicraft Room. It also featured two guest rooms intended for the accommodation of visitors to the former Negros Occidental National Agricultural School (NONAS). In addition to the main structure, annex rooms were later added to serve as extended lodging facilities for guests staying overnight or for extended periods, as no other presentable accommodations were available on campus at that time.

According to Dr. Fernando D. Abello, retired CPSU Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Mr. Jacobo M. Vingno, retired faculty member of NONAS, identified as informants numbers 2 and 9, the building also served as temporary housing for new school heads who were appointed as resident administrators of the

institution, in alignment with the “home” function implied in the building’s original name.

The building was primarily used to train students in Food and Technology subjects, offering hands-on learning opportunities that complemented the academic curriculum. The building underwent renovation in recent years and was renamed Mount Ballo Hall.

When casually asked about the change in name, the current school head explained that the new name draws inspiration from Sitio Ballo, located in the upper part of Barangay Tagukon. This area encompasses the highest mountain within the land reservation of Central Philippines State University, hence the symbolic renaming of the structure to Mount Ballo Hall, representing both elevation and transformation.

Photograph 8. Home Economics Building (now Mount Ballo Hall)



Photo Credits to CPSU Planning Office



Photo by: Mary Grace Noreen P. Leduna

The Kiosk

The kiosk is located approximately 600 meters northeast of the main gate of Central Philippines State University (CPSU). It stands about 20 meters behind the New Administration Building and serves as a peaceful and scenic landmark where students and visitors can relax and socialize.

The original design of the kiosk has been preserved over the years, with only minor modifications. The primary update involved replacing the flooring and stairs with cement to improve durability, while the overall structure and aesthetic have remained the same.

According to Mr. Jacobo M. Vingno, retired faculty member and informant number 9, the kiosk was built by pioneering students at the Negros Occidental National Agricultural School (NONAS) as a class donation from Batch 1960–1961. The names of the students who contributed to this legacy are inscribed at the base of the structure, commemorating their contribution to the institution’s heritage.

The road leading from the main gate to the kiosk remains the same path that once guided students and faculty to the core of the former NONAS campus. The area was designed to serve as a Rotonda, a central junction from which most of the school's original buildings, located uphill from the kiosk, were accessible.

Photograph 9. Kiosk

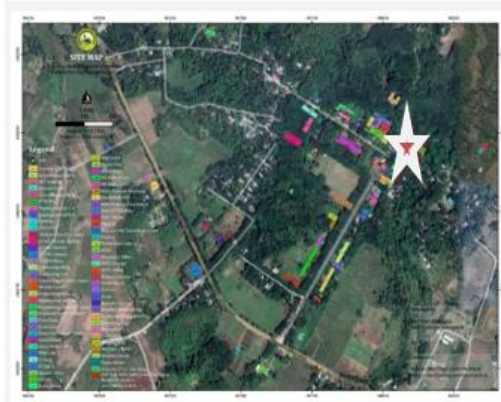


Photo Credits to CPSU Planning Office



Photo by: Mary Grace Noreen P. Leduna

Abada Avenue

Abada Avenue stretches approximately 600 meters from the main gate to the New Administration Building of Central Philippines State University (CPSU). It serves as the main thoroughfare within the university and is a two-way road with a center island dividing the lanes. This road is functional and historically significant, as it was once the heart of residential life for the university's teaching and administrative staff.

Lining both sides of Abada Avenue were 10 wooden cottages constructed for teachers and employees. These cottages featured galvanized iron roofing and were part of a larger housing network: 15 more cottages were located along Mahogany Avenue and Mango Avenue, while the remaining three cottages stood along Calle Utod. Notably, six cottages faced the plaza, and another 6 faced the Academic Building. The area also included the residence of the Superintendent, positioned within the same vicinity.

According to Dr. Fernando D. Abello, retired CPSU Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Mrs. Milagros Calalas, retired CPSU faculty member, identified as informant numbers 2 and 10, Abada Avenue was once surrounded by the residences of the institution's staff and faculty, making it a central part of campus life.

The avenue was named in honor of Senator Esteban Abada, a distinguished legislator of the Republic of the Philippines and a native of Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental. His name remains etched in the university's landscape as a tribute to his contributions and roots in the local community.

Photograph 10. Abada Avenue



Photo Credits to CPSU Planning Office



Photo by: Jahnell Dechavez Jareño

The Banana, Coffee, and Cacao Orchard (BCCO)

The Banana, Coffee, and Cacao Orchard (BCCO) is located approximately 1 kilometer northeast of the main gate of Central Philippines State University (CPSU). It is situated at the rear of the Vo-Ag Building, serving as a vital extension of the university's agricultural education program.

The original structure of the BCCO featured a galvanized iron roof and cemented flooring, and it functioned as a primary venue for agricultural classes and hands-on training. Over time, the building was renovated, and the new structure was rebuilt using hardwood, enhancing its durability while preserving its educational purpose.

According to Mr. Julio A. Palomar Jr., former Vice President of Negros State College of Agriculture (NSCA), and Mrs. Heidi A. Palomar, retired Assistant Professor of NSCA, identified as informant numbers 6 and 7, the BCCO was established through the initiative of Mr. Claro Abay, a vocational agriculture teacher. He and his students worked collectively to develop and maintain the orchard.

The informants emphasized that beyond the physical development of the orchard, the agricultural knowledge imparted to students, particularly in plant propagation, seed selection, and orchard management, was of lasting value. The BCCO remains a symbol of applied learning, student involvement, and the practical roots of agricultural education at CPSU.

Photograph 11. Banana, Coffee and Cacao Orchard (BCCO)



Photo Credits to CPSU Planning Office



Photo by: Denver Q. Jaranilla

The Old Farm Shop

The Old Farm Shop is located approximately 1 kilometer east of the main gate of Central Philippines State University (CPSU), situated in Purok CPSU II. The structure was built primarily of wood, with a galvanized iron roof, and served as a vital facility for the university's vocational and agricultural operations.

The building housed the office of the shop teacher, while the remaining area was used to store and operate machinery, such as planers and saws. This setup allowed students to engage in practical training involving carpentry, woodwork, and mechanical skills.

Photograph 12. Old Farm Shop



Photo Credits to CPSU Planning Office



Photo by: Mary Grace Noreen P. Leduna

According to Mr. Julio A. Palomar Jr., former Vice President of Negros State College of Agriculture (NSCA), and Mrs. Heidi A. Palomar, retired Assistant Professor of NSCA, both identified as informant numbers 6 and 7, the Farm Machinery Building, located in the same vicinity, was used to store tractors, school service vehicles, and various farm implements.

The school also operated a sawmill, enabling the production of lumber used in constructing cottages, campus buildings, the gymnasium, and even classroom furniture such as chairs. In addition to serving as a workshop, the Old Farm Shop was also used as a classroom, providing students with hands-on experience in agricultural mechanics and technical skills essential for rural development.

The Head of the Carabao Seal (NOAC Seal)

The Head of the Carabao Seal is located approximately 20 meters from the main gate of Central Philippines State University, directly across the national highway. This structure serves as a significant landmark of the university, bearing the name Negros Occidental National Agricultural School (NONAS), which was founded in 1947. Made of concrete cement, the seal stands at 15 feet in height and is encircled by a decorative design of 24 corn kernels.

Photograph 13. Head of the Carabao Seal



Photo Credits to CPSU Planning Office



Photo by: Mary Grace Noreen P. Leduna

According to Dr. Marcelino A. Dechavez, Vocational Schools Superintendent II and the first President of the Negros State College of Agriculture (NSCA), the Head of the Carabao Seal, also known as the NOAC Seal or “ulo karbaw”, was originally designed by Engr. Ernesto Abanilla, a Physics teacher at NOAC. The 24 corn kernels surrounding the seal represent the love for farming, which was regarded as the primary virtue instilled in NOAC students. Furthermore, each kernel symbolizes one of the 24 core values upheld by the institution: commitment, courage, decency, faith, flexibility, generosity, hard labor, honesty, humility, industry, ingenuity, integrity, intelligence, leadership, loyalty, patience, perseverance, punctuality, resilience, respect, responsibility, service, teamwork, and thriftiness.

In its earlier form, the seal was surrounded by smaller pillars connected to the central “ulo karbaw” pillar by large iron chains. Over time, however, students would

often sit and rock on the chains, causing the smaller pillars to weaken and eventually collapse. Despite these changes, the Head of the Carabao Seal continues to stand as a lasting emblem of CPSU's agricultural heritage and the values that shaped its foundation.

Horseshoe Park

The Horseshoe Park is located approximately 1 kilometer north of the main gate of Central Philippines State University (CPSU). It is situated on the left side of Cottage No. 28, now the residence of Dr. Fernando D. Abello, the university's Vice President for Academic Affairs, and just below the CPSU Roman Catholic Chapel. The park is found along the road leading to Green Hills.

As its name suggests, the Horseshoe Park is horseshoe-shaped, with a water fountain positioned at its center. The park is surrounded by trees and lush mowed grass, offering a cool and refreshing atmosphere. It lies along a two-way road commonly used by pedestrians and vehicles alike. From 1959 to 1960, the park was beautifully landscaped with Bermuda grass, and adorned with orange, pink, and white Lirio flowers, which bloomed from April to May. Surrounding the area were bougainvillea plants, further enhancing its vibrant appearance.

Photograph 14. Horseshoe Park

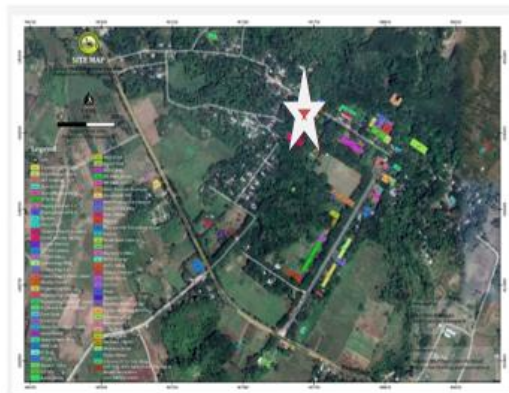


Photo Credits to CPSU Planning Office

Photo by: Grace Noreen P. Leduna

According to Mr. Roberto Lescano Segura and Mrs. Columba Parcon Segura, both retired faculty members of NSCA, and Mrs. Susan Parcon, an alumna of NONAS, marked as informant numbers 3, 4, and 5, the Horseshoe Park holds a special place in the hearts of many. It was a favored spot for students, friends, and young lovers, who gathered there to relax and enjoy each other's company. They described the park as a place that exudes a sudden burst of energy, where the trees seem to embrace each

person, making conversations and story-sharing even more meaningful. For many, the park is a symbol of treasured moments and remains a cherished space for rekindling memories from the past.

Extent of the Characteristics of the Sites of Central Philippines State University

The succeeding presentation reflects the extent of the characteristics of the sites of Central Philippines State University in terms of uniqueness and appeal, educational/economic/historical/cultural value, accessibility, availability of basic utilities, and availability of onsite facilities.

Uniqueness and Appeal

Table 1 revealed that as to uniqueness and appeal, Abada Avenue having a mean of 4.92, standard deviation of 0.12 with interpretation of very evident, ranked 1; Twin Cave having a mean of 4.75, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of very evident, ranked 2; Lagoon having a mean of 4.25, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of very evident, ranked 3; Ruin of NONAS, Vo-Ag, BCCO, Old Farm Shop, and Horseshoe having a mean of 4.00, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of quite evident, ranked 6; Kiosk and Head of the Carabao Seal having a mean of 3.75, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of quite evident, ranked 9.5; Clemente Sports Complex having a mean of 3.44, standard deviation of 0.34 with interpretation of quite evident; ranked 11; Mount Ballo Hall having a mean of 3.25, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of fairly evident, ranked 12; Old Administration Building having a mean of 2.90, standard deviation of 0.13 with interpretation of fairly evident, ranked 13; and Women's Dormitory having a mean of 2.50, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of slightly evident.

Table 1. Extent of the Characteristics of the Historical Sites of Central Philippines State University as to Uniqueness and Appeal

Uniqueness and Appeal	Mean	Standard Deviation	Interpretation
Old Administration Building (Old Library)	2.90	0.13	Fairly Evident
Clemente Sports Complex	3.44	0.34	Quite Evident
Women's Dormitory (Scholarship Office)	2.50	0.00	Slightly Evident
Ruin of NONAS	4.00	0.00	Quite Evident
Lagoon	4.25	0.00	Very Evident
Twin Cave	4.75	0.00	Very Evident
Vo-Ag	4.00	0.00	Quite Evident
Mount Ballo Hall	3.25	0.00	Fairly Evident
Kiosk	3.75	0.00	Quite Evident
Abada Avenue	4.92	0.12	Very Evident
BCCO	4.00	0.00	Quite Evident

Old Farm House	4.00	0.00	Quite Evident
Head of the Carabao Seal	3.75	0.00	Quite Evident
Horseshoe Park	4.00	0.00	Quite Evident

Educational/Economic/Historical/Cultural Values

Table 2 revealed that as to educational/economic/historical/cultural value, Twin Cave and Head of the Carabao Seal having a mean of 4.75, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of very evident, ranked 1.5; BCCO and Old Farm Shop having a mean of 4.50, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of very evident, ranked 3.5; Vo-Ag and Abada Avenue having a mean of 4.25, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of very evident, ranked 5.5; Clemente Sports Complex having a mean of 3.85, standard deviation of 0.13 with interpretation of quite evident, ranked 7; Ruin of NONAS, Lagoon, and Mount Ballo Hall having a mean of 3.75, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of quite evident, ranked 9; Kiosk and Horseshoe having a mean of 3.25, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of fairly evident, ranked 11.5; Old Administration Building having a mean of 3.04, standard deviation of 0.26 with interpretation of fairly evident, ranked 13; and Women's Dormitory having a mean of 2.25, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of slightly evident, ranked 14.

Table 2. Extent of the Characteristics of the Historical Sites of Central Philippines State University as to Educational/Economic/Historical/Cultural Value

Educational/Economic/ Historical/Cultural Value	Mean	Standard Deviation	Interpretation
Old Administration Building (Old Library)	3.04	0.26	Fairly Evident
Clemente Sports Complex	3.85	0.13	Quite Evident
Women's Dormitory (Scholarship Office)	2.25	0.00	Slightly Evident
Ruin of NONAS	3.75	0.00	Quite Evident
Lagoon	3.75	0.00	Quite Evident
Twin Cave	4.75	0.00	Very Evident
Vo-Ag	4.25	0.00	Very Evident
Mount Ballo Hall	3.75	0.00	Quite Evident
Kiosk	3.25	0.00	Fairly Evident
Abada Avenue	4.25	0.00	Very Evident
BCCO	4.50	0.00	Very Evident
Old Farm Shop	4.50	0.00	Very Evident
Head of the Carabao Seal	4.75	0.00	Very Evident
Horseshoe Park	3.25	0.00	Fairly Evident

Accessibility

Table 3 revealed that as to accessibility, Head of the Carabao Seal having a mean of 4.75, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of very evident, ranked 1; Abada Avenue having a mean of 4.08, standard deviation of 0.12 with interpretation of quite evident, ranked 2; Clemente Sports Complex, Mount Ballo Hall, and Horseshoe

having a mean of 3.75, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of quite evident, ranked 4; BCCO having a mean of 3.50, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of quite evident, ranked 6; Old Farm Shop having a mean of 3.25, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of fairly evident, ranked 7; Kiosk having a mean of 3.00, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of fairly evident; ranked 8; Women's Dormitory, Twin Cave and Vo-Ag having a mean of 2.75, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of fairly evident, ranked 10; Old Administration Building having a mean of 2.54, standard deviation of 0.26 with interpretation of slightly evident, ranked 12; Ruin of NONAS having a mean of 2.50, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of slightly evident, ranked 13; and lagoon having a mean of 2.25, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of slightly evident.

Table 3. Extent of the Characteristics of the Historical Sites of Central Philippines State University as to Accessibility

Accessibility	Mean	Standard Deviation	Interpretation
Old Administration Building (Old Library)	2.54	0.26	Slightly Evident
Clemente Sports Complex	3.75	0.00	Quite Evident
Women's Dormitory (Scholarship Office)	2.75	0.00	Fairly Evident
Ruin of NONAS	2.50	0.00	Slightly Evident
Lagoon	2.25	0.00	Slightly Evident
Twin Cave	2.75	0.00	Fairly Evident
Vo-Ag	2.75	0.00	Fairly Evident
Mount Ballo Hall	3.75	0.00	Quite Evident
Kiosk	3.00	0.00	Fairly Evident
Abada Avenue	4.08	0.12	Quite Evident
BCCO	3.50	0.00	Quite Evident
Old Farm Shop	3.25	0.00	Fairly Evident
Head of the Carabao Seal	4.75	0.00	Very Evident
Horseshoe Park	3.75	0.00	Quite Evident

Availability of Basic Utilities

Table 4 revealed that as to availability of basic utilities, Clemente Sports Complex having a mean of 4.20, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of very evident, ranked 1; Mount Ballo Hall having a mean of 4.00, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of quite evident, ranked 2; Head of the Carabao Seal having a mean of 3.75, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of quite evident, ranked 3; Abada Avenue having a mean of 2.87, standard deviation of 0.20 with interpretation of fairly evident, ranked 4; Old Farm Shop having a mean of 2.60, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of fairly evident, ranked 5; Old Administration Building, Women's Dormitory and Horseshoe having a mean of 2.40, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of slightly evident, ranked 7; Ruin of NONAS and Twin Cave having a mean of 1.80, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of slightly evident; ranked 9.5; Kiosk and BCCO having a mean of 1.60, standard deviation of 0.00 with

interpretation of not evident, ranked 11.5; and Lagoon and Vo-Ag having a mean of 1.40, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of not evident.

Table 4. Extent of the Characteristics of the Historical Sites of Central Philippines State University as to Availability of Basic Utilities

Basic Utilities	Mean	Standard Deviation	Interpretation
Old Administration Building (Old Library)	2.40	0.00	Slightly Evident
Clemente Sports Complex	4.20	0.00	Very Evident
Women's Dormitory (Scholarship Office)	2.40	0.00	Slightly Evident
Ruin of NONAS	1.80	0.00	Slightly Evident
Lagoon	1.40	0.00	Not Evident
Twin Cave	1.80	0.00	Slightly Evident
Vo-Ag	1.40	0.00	Not Evident
Mount Ballo Hall	4.00	0.00	Quite Evident
Kiosk	1.60	0.00	Not Evident
Abada Avenue	2.87	0.20	Fairly Evident
BCCO	1.60	0.00	Not Evident
Old Farm Shop	2.60	0.00	Fairly Evident
Head of the Carabao Seal	3.75	0.00	Quite Evident
Horseshoe Park	2.40	0.00	Slightly Evident

Availability of Onsite Facilities

Table 5 revealed that as to availability of onsite facilities, Mount Ballo Hall, having a mean of 3.80, standard deviation of 0.00 with an interpretation of quite evident, ranked 1; Clemente Sports Complex having a mean of 3.67, standard deviation of 0.10 with interpretation of quite evident, ranked 2; Old Farm Shop and Head of the Carabao Seal having a mean of 2.40, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of slightly evident, ranked 3.5; Old Administration Building, Women's Dormitory and Horseshoe having a mean of 1.60, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of not evident, ranked 6; Vo-Ag having a mean of 1.40, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of not evident, ranked 8; Ruin of NONAS, Abada Avenue and BCCO having a mean of 1.20, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of not evident, ranked 10; Lagoon, Twin Cave and Kiosk having a mean of 1.00, standard deviation of 0.00 with interpretation of not evident, ranked 13.

Table 5. Extent of the Characteristics of the Historical Sites of Central Philippines State University as to Availability of Onsite Facilities

Onsite Facilities	Mean	Standard Deviation	Interpretation
Old Administration Building (Old Library)	1.60	0.00	Not Evident
Clemente Sports Complex	3.67	0.10	Quite Evident
Women's Dormitory (Scholarship Office)	1.60	0.00	Not Evident
Ruin of NONAS	1.20	0.00	Not Evident

Lagoon	1.00	0.00	Not Evident
Twin Cave	1.00	0.00	Not Evident
Vo-Ag	1.40	0.00	Not Evident
Mount Ballo Hall	3.80	0.00	Quite Evident
Kiosk	1.00	0.00	Not Evident
Abada Avenue	1.20	0.00	Not Evident
BCCO	1.20	0.00	Not Evident
Old Farm Shop	2.40	0.00	Slightly Evident
Head of the Carabao Seal	2.40	0.00	Slightly Evident
Horseshoe Park	1.60	0.00	Not Evident

Summary of the Extent of the Characteristics of the Sites of Central Philippines State University

Table 6 revealed that educational, economic, historical and cultural views got a mean of 3.82 with standard deviation of 0.69 and marked as quite evident, ranked 1; uniqueness and appeal got a mean of 3.81 with standard deviation of 0.69 and marked as quite evident, ranked 2; accessibility got a mean of 3.07 with standard deviation of 0.57 and marked as fairly evident, ranked 3; availability of basic facilities got a mean of 2.34 with standard deviation of 0.92 and marked as slightly evident, ranked 4; and availability of onsite facilities got a mean of 1.75 with standard deviation of 0.97 and marked as not evident, ranked 5.

Table 6. Summary of the Extent of the Characteristics of the Historical Sites of Central Philippines State University as to Availability of Onsite Facilities

Areas	Mean	Standard Deviation	Interpretation
Uniqueness and Appeal	3.81	0.69	Quite Evident
Educational/Economic/Historical /Cultural Value	3.82	0.69	Quite Evident
Accessibility	3.07	0.57	Fairly Evident
Availability of Basic Utilities	2.34	0.92	Slightly Evident
Availability of Onsite Facilities	1.75	0.97	Not Evident

Discussions

The result revealed that there were 14 identified sites inside the perimeter area of Central Philippines State University-Main Campus. The sites were described according to their distance from their point of reference, the main gate of Central Philippines State University-Main Campus, by air distance and its physical appearance. People have stories to tell about the sites, what it is, and how they became through the narratives of the key informants. The sites to stroll through the history of Central Philippines State University, namely the Old Administration Building (now Historical and Cultural Heritage Center), Gymnasium (now Clemente Sports Complex), Women's Dormitory (now Scholarship Office), Ruins of NONAS (Academic Building), Lagoon, Twin Cave, Vo-Ag, Home Economics Building (now

Mount Ballo Hall), Kiosk, Abada Avenue, Banana, Cacao, Coffee Orchard (BCCO), Old Farm House, Head of the Carabao Seal, and Horseshoe Park.

As to the extent of the characteristics of the sites in terms of uniqueness and appeal, Abada Avenue got first in rank, and Women's Dormitory got the last in rank. The Abada Avenue, Twin Cave, and Lagoon signify that these historical sites possess the highest degree of exceptionality, beauty, natural, and recognition. However, the Old Administration Building (Old Library), Clemente Sports Complex, Women's Dormitory (Scholarship Office), Ruin of NONAS, Vo-Ag, Mount Ballo Hall, Kiosk, Old Farm Shop, Head of the Carabao Seal, and Horseshoe Park were only somewhat apparent. The result is somewhat related to the study of Mindanao et al. (2020), which mentioned that tourists consider the surroundings and the environment of the historical attraction. They are looking for a place that is connected to their expectations. Factors contributing to form-place attachment can be both people and places.

In regard to the extent of the characteristics of the sites in terms of educational/economic/historical/cultural value, Twin Cave and Head of the Carabao Seal got first in rank, and Women's Dormitory got last in rank. The Twin Cave, Vo-Ag, Abada Avenue, BCCO, Old Farm Shop, and Head of the Carabao Seal signify that these historical sites possess the value of the highest degree of length of service, cultural, educational or economic significance, relevance to agriculture and ecology, and relevance to program offering. However, the Old Administration Building (Old Library), Clemente Sports Complex, Women's Dormitory (Scholarship Office), Ruin of NONAS, Lagoon, Mount Ballo Hall, Kiosk, and Horseshoe Park have limited possessions. The result supports Alexandrakis, et al. (2018), who found out that demand for a new concept of heritage, in which monuments and landscapes are considered active factors in creating a sense of history, is esteemed not only from a scientific and academic perspective, but also as part of a more sensitive and efficient strategy to link cultural heritage and tourism, by bringing an integrative perspective to the forefront. Implementing such strategies is strictly correlated with supporting decision-makers and increasing people's awareness towards a more comprehensive approach to heritage preservation. A robust socio-economic impact model should be presented.

On the extent of the characteristics of the sites in terms of accessibility, the Head of the Carabao Seal got first in rank, and the lagoon got last in rank. The Head of the Carabao Seal signifies that this historical site possesses the highest degree of accessibility all year, with regular transport service vehicles near the service center and from the town center. However, Old Administration Building (Old Library), Clemente Sports Complex, Women's Dormitory (Scholarship Office), Ruin of NONAS, Lagoon, Twin Cave, Vo-Ag, Mount Ballo Hall, Kiosk, Abada Avenue, BCCO, Old Farm Shop, and Horseshoe Park have limited accessibility. The result coincides with the European Network for Accessible Tourism (2012), which mentioned that in making the building heritage more accessible, it is essential to be aware of people's different needs and how these needs can be met in a variety of ways. It is important to remember that often, the

best and most appropriate way to make historic places more accessible is through management solutions, which may sometimes require little physical intervention or alteration of historic fabric. It is important to recognize that successfully improving access to historic buildings and sites requires an integrated and balanced approach that considers both conservation and accessibility needs.

On the extent of the sites' characteristics in terms of basic utilities' availability, Clemente Sports Complex came first in rank, and Lagoon and Vo-Ag came last in rank. The Clemente Sports Complex signifies that this historical site possesses the highest degree of clean water supply, sufficient power supply, communication availability, drainage system, and solid waste management system. However, the Old Administration Building (Old Library), Women's Dormitory (Scholarship Office), Ruin of NONAS, Twin Cave, Mount Ballo Hall, Abada Avenue, Old Farm Shop, Head of the Carabao Seal, and Horseshoe Park have limited basic services. Meanwhile, Lagoon, Vo-Ag, Kiosk, and BCCO have no showing of their available basic utilities. The result bears in part with those of Designing Buildings (2021), which explained that Utilities are infrastructure services provided to consumers that are sometimes considered to be 'public' services; that is, they are supplied to the public and are important for the normal functioning of society. As a result, they normally come under some form of public control. Utilities are generally considered to include electricity, gas, water sewage, and communications services. Ensuring that utilities are supplied to developments is vitally important, especially in the historical sites.

In the analysis of the extent of the characteristics of the sites in terms of availability of onsite facilities, Mount Ballo Hall got first in rank, and Lagoon, Twin Cave, and Kiosk got last in rank. The Mount Ballo Hall signifies that this historical site possesses the value of a high degree of clean and safe restrooms for women and men, good accommodation facilities including parking, clean and quality food service, activity facilities, and directional and information signage. However, Clemente Sports Complex, Old Farm Shop, and Head of the Carabao Seal possess limited available onsite facilities. In contrast, the Women's Dormitory (Scholarship Office), Ruin of NONAS, Lagoon, Twin Cave, Vo-Ag, Kiosk, Abada Avenue, BCCO, and Horseshoe Park do not show onsite facilities. The result is much the same as that of Hou et al. (2020), who found out the role of facilities in coordinating the management process for the benefit of stakeholders and the general community. Facilities Management allows a balanced approach to heritage building adaptation, sound user experience, and broader community effects. This enables efficient decision-making, creative facilities design, and effective public engagement. Facilities' management's strength in fitting into the urban renewal context illustrates its comparative advantage for heritage conservation and revitalization management.

The overall result implies that the uniqueness and appeal, as well as the educational/economic/historical/cultural value characteristics of Central Philippines State University sites, are somewhat obvious. The accessibility and availability of basic services are limited. While onsite facilities are unavailable, the result coincides with

Alexandrakis et al. (2019), who discussed that cultural heritage assets should be preserved because they play an important role in economic development. It develops a variety of goods and services. It promotes quality and changes in the different sectors. It boosts employment for people. The value of cultural heritage sites provides a range of benefits to society, mostly related to values. The cultural heritage sites directly improve socio-economic value as they increase tourism arrivals. Historical sites also provide opportunities for policy interventions for their conservation. Hence, protection measures must be ensured for the integrity of cultural heritage.

Conclusion

Central Philippines State University is found as the cradle of old structures. Visible from the area were the fourteen (14) well-known sites that are considered treasures of the university, namely the Old Administration Building (now Historical and Cultural Heritage Center), Gymnasium (now Clemente Sports Complex), Women's Dormitory (now Scholarship Office), Ruins of NONAS (Academic Building), Lagoon, Twin Cave, Vo-Ag, Home Economics Building (now Mount Ballo Hall), Kiosk, Abada Avenue, Banana, Cacao, Coffee Orchard (BCCO), Old Farm House, Head of the Carabao Seal, and Horseshoe Park. The sites are famous landmarks and full of memorable stories that took back the residents and personnel of the school in time.

Concerning the status and extent of the characteristics of the 14 identified sites, the strength of the sites was in the educational, economic, historical, and cultural values. The length of their existence was well known through its structure. It has cultural, educational, and economic significance to the institution. It is relevant to agriculture and ecology, which is the institution's main purpose. It is also relevant to the institution's program offerings. The uniqueness and appeal were quite evident. It is natural. It was recognized and exposed. The accessibility of the sites is slightly evident. There were some historical sites that had regular transportation and some that did not. The distance from the service and town center is quite far. The availability of basic utilities is slightly evident. Sites lack clean water and power supply, slow signal connections, poor drainage and sewerage systems, and weak solid waste management systems. The onsite facilities are not evident. No clean and safe restrooms, accommodation facilities are not visible, clean and quality food service is not available, and the directions and information signage are not clear. The researchers highly recommended that the administration develop and improve the sites to transform them into a new area of tourism demand. The basic and onsite facilities should be ready and made available to the visitors anytime. The administration should employ or organize trained tour guides to roam around site visitors. The administration should develop a website exclusive to the institutions' sites to make it known to other places. Hence, there is a need to create a site development framework for its promotion and development.

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Conflicts of Interests

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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