Hispanic social place names of Manila

Toponimia hispánica social de Manila

Marco Antonio Joven Romero
Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)
Hanoi University (HANU)
marcoantonio@hanu.edu.vn

Recepción del artículo: 14 de abril de 2021
Aceptación: 24 de agosto de 2021
Abstract
Place names mirror the social history of a territory, the daily life, and the relations of its settlers. Hispanic historical social place names in Manila depict the urban society during the colonial period. In the following pages, I gather and explain the living Hispanic toponyms coined before the 1945 Manila battle and discuss the different activities, peoples, and economic classes they depict. I conclude that different areas were prone to administrative, financial, leisure, military, nonprofit, rural, transport, and working-class activities: the distance to Intramuros, the core of the historical city, witnessed their relevance.

Keywords: Filipiniana; Hispanic Asia; history of Manila; metro Manila; toponymy

Resumen
Los topónimos reflejan la historia social de los territorios, su vida diaria y las relaciones de sus habitantes. Los topónimos históricos hispánicos en Manila dibujan la sociedad de la ciudad durante el período colonial. Aquí recojo y explico los topónimos hispánicos vivos acuñados antes de la batalla de Manila de 1945 y discuto las distintas actividades, pueblos y clases económicas que retratan. Concluyo que en distintas zonas de la ciudad predominaban actividades administrativas, financieras, de ocio, militares, de beneficencia, rurales, logísticas y de clases obreras: la distancia al centro en Intramuros denotaba su relevancia.

Palabras clave: Asia hispánica; Filipiniana; historia de Manila; metro Manila; toponimia
1. Introduction

The historical City of Manila comprises an area of 42.88 km²; it was home to 1,780,148 inhabitants in 2015 (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2016). It is one of the cities that currently form the National Capital Region of the Philippines, popularly known as Metro Manila, including a total of 16 cities and one municipality, spreading over 619.57 km², with a population size of more than 12.8 million inhabitants in 2015 (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2016) and over 14 million inhabitants in 2021. These cities and the municipality comprise an urban continuum that extends over the surrounding provinces, harboring more than 25 million persons and being one of the largest metropolitan areas worldwide (Demographia, 2022: 23). In 1903, the historical City of Manila was home to 219,928 inhabitants, and Metro Manila had a population of 330,345 inhabitants (Stinner & Bacol-Montilla, 1981: 8).

The Philippines was under Spanish colonial rule between 1571 and 1898 after previous expeditions. Manila was founded by Miguel López de Legazpi in 1571 subsequent to prior settlements influenced by local peoples, Hokkien Chinese traders, and the Sultanate of Brunei. The Hispanic influence in Manila started in the second half of the 16th century and lasted until World War II, after the American rule over the Philippines began in 1898. The Spanish occupation of previous settlements and urban growth until the late 19th century introduced a vast number of Hispanic place names, with some previous names being preserved (Lesho & Sippola, 2018; Quilis & Casado-Fresnillo, 2008).

In general, place names are coined according to social or geographic reasons. The latter usually describes the territory’s physical characteristics — e.g., Binondo (Tagalog Language Binundók: hilly terrain), Estero (Spanish Language: channel). Social reasons are multiple and more complex. Sometimes place names refer to working activities and guilds, influential people, religious entities, military buildings, and others. Quilis and Casado-Fresnillo (2008) offer the following taxonomy for Spanish place names in urban
areas of the Philippines: names of saints; Spanish countries and cities; historical figures; historical dates; persons related to arts and sciences; relevant persons in the Philippine society, including their first names and family name, or only either of these two; flowers and plants; animals; abstract names; guilds and work activities; common names or adjectives; geographic places, poetic names, and commercial names (544–550).

Here I analyze the preserved Hispanic place names indicating social activities before the 1945 Manila’s battle. These place names are currently used and describe continuous social activities in the past. They do not refer to specific events or moments, eponyms, epithets given to specific personalities or figures, private non-social entities, or virtues with no direct relation to the area. They are classified according to the following categories: Financial, Leisure, Military, Nonprofit, Another social function, Public Administration, Rural, Transport, and Working-class. Note that Working-class refers to work activities different from financial, military, administrative, and rural. Transport refers to the most relevant mobility places and infrastructure, such as avenues, passages, terminals, and stations. Another Social Function includes metaphorical names depicting the social life in the area (e.g., Hormiga), police stations, private entities with a social function, relevant event venues or meeting points, representative social buildings, supply infrastructure, and names depicting the social-urban nature of the area (e.g., Mestizo, Población, Visita). Some place names are classified into different categories; for example, ‘Revellín del Parián’ is classified as Military (Revellín) and Working-Class (Parián). For the introduction, explanation, and analysis, I maintain the most popular or official spelling even if it does not meet the Spanish normative.

Toponyms coined according to previous places in Metro Manila with no direct historical, social, or territorial relationship are not considered; for example, ‘Muralla Street’ in ‘New Intramuros Village’ (Coordinates: 14.669942, 121.071954). Similarly, historical names with no direct relationship with social life and group activities in the territory are not addressed in this study, even when
some of these places were and still are popular in the city (e.g., Ermita, Ermitaño, Paco). Names preserved in English are also not listed (e.g., ‘Paco Park and Cemetery’, previously ‘Cementerio de Paco’ or ‘Cementerio General de Dilao’), nor are place names coined from virtues in Spanish in 1911, one year after the Suppressed Nationalism Era (Ira & Medina, 1977: 153): Alegría (happiness), Constancia (constancy), Economía (economy), Firmeza (firmness), Honradez (honesty), Lealtad (loyalty), Pureza (purity), Reposo (rest), Silencio (silence), Sobriedad (sobriety), Sosiego (peace of mind), Trabajo (work), Verdad (truth).

In the following sections, I discuss the quantitative preservation of historical social place names according to the above categories. I also depict some spatial patterns around Intramuros, the core of the historical city, illustrating that the preserved Hispanic toponyms in Manila depict social life and the social evolution of the city and supporting that the more powerful a social group was, the closer to Intramuros it was located.

An outline of each place name is also offered, first considering the name itself and then the functions and historical evolution of said place. For instance, ‘Casa Asilo de Nuestra Señora de la Consolación de Mandaloya’ is currently an educational institution that was originally an asylum, as the place name suggests, so it is analyzed as an asylum. The list provided herein is based on the information on contemporary Hispanic place names in Metro Manila gathered from 803 surveys and my own fieldwork between 2017 and 2020. Data have been contrasted with Manila’s 1898, 1920, and 1934 maps (De Gamoneda, 1898; Bach, 1920; Young Men’s Christian Association, 1934) and the books Streets of Manila (Ira & Medina, 1977) and Daluyan: A Historical Dictionary of the Streets of Manila (National Historical Institute (Philippines) [NHIP], 2006). Additional sources are conveniently cited and referenced, and other contemporary tools offer further support (Adkranz, 2014; GoogleMaps, n.d.; Jersey, 2011). Some publications provide more general information and clues (Doeppers, 2016;

In Section 2. Analysis, I outline the results according to the social nature of place names, preservation statistics, and location patterns. In Section 3. Conclusions, I highlight the key conclusions. In Appendix A. Style Guidelines, I describe the style used for the list of place names, explaining each item and offering as much information as possible in the easiest way. In Appendix B. List of Place Names, all the preserved Hispanic historical social place names are listed, including a total of 183 entries. To note, some places have been classified under more than one category, resulting in 199 items included. These names were contrasted with other sources (Bach, 1920; De Gamoneda, 1898; Ira & Medina, 1977; National Historical Institute (Philippines), 2006; Young Men’s Christian Association, 1934). Appendix C. Maps, includes three charts to facilitate data interpretation: 1898 De Gamoneda’s map, 1934 Young Men’s Christian Association’s map, and Metro Manila’s administrative map (Adkranz, 2014).

2. Analysis

There are 183 Hispanic historical social place names currently preserved in Manila, from a total of 199 items considered. The difference between the number of place names and the sum of items considered by category derives from some place names being classified under more than one category. Note that place names belonging to a given category but adding some additional linguistic features have been considered separately and included in the 183 historical social items and specific categories. For example, ‘Puerta de Almacenes’, in the ‘Almacenes’ category, has been considered separately as it adds the information about Puerta and the military structure in the Intramuros wall. ‘Fuente de Carriedo’, in Plaza Santa Cruz, has not been considered in the analysis as it left no print in its historical location in Sampaloc.
Of the 199 items considered, there are 61 working-class place names (30.65%), 41 military (20.6%), 21 rural (10.55%), 15 transport (7.54%), 14 public administration and government (7.04%), 10 nonprofit (5.03%), nine financial (4.52%), seven leisure (3.52%), and 21 place names referring to other social functions (10.55%).

There are 61 Hispanic historical working-class place names in Metro Manila. These items are found in Binondo (10), Navotas (6), San Nicolás (6), Quiapo (5), Makati (4), Ermita (3), Malabon (3), Port Area (3), Tondo (3), Caloocan (2), Pandacan (2), Pasig (2), Sampaloc (2), Intramuros, Marikina, Paco, Pasay, Quezon City, Santa Ana, Santa Cruz, Santa Mesa, Taguig, and Valenzuela. Production, distribution, and trading activities were carried out in almost every settlement of the historical Manila region. Intramuros only includes the name Parián, referring to a trading area outside the walls. Binondo, San Nicolas, and Quiapo contain the majority of working-class place names as they were trading and distribution centers for the whole city, with an incipient industry in Binondo — e.g., Soda, Industria, Insular — that gave rise to Manila’s bourgeoisie during the 19th and 20th centuries. Many streets reflect historical guild labors, and all items in Navotas and Port Area refer to fishing and shipping activities. ‘Fuente de Carriedo’ in Plaza Santa Cruz is not considered as it was initially located in Sampaloc and left no toponymical print in its historical location.

There are 41 Hispanic historical military place names in Metro Manila; 32 are located in Intramuros and the rest in Malate (3), San Juan (2), Quezón City, San Nicolas, Tondo, and Valenzuela. Camarilla, in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, corresponds to incipient Filipino military activities; Tangke (Tanque: tank) in Valenzuela refers to an episode in the Philippine-American war, and Torre (La Torre, tower) in Tondo corresponds to a pre-Hispanic fortification.

There are 21 Hispanic historical rural place names in Metro Manila, located in Caloocan (3), Las Piñas (3), Quezon City (2), Quiapo (2), Valenzuela (2), Ermita, Makati, Malabon, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Pasig, Pateros, and Tondo. Most are found
on the outskirts of historical urban settlements of Metro Manila, except for the items in Quiapo (Escaldo, Quinta), Makati (Casa Hacienda), and Ermita (Provisor). According to Daluyan, Escaldo refers to burned ground (National Historical Institute (Philippines), 2006: 30), although some sources explain the name as referring to candle production to supply the Quiapo church. Quinta and ‘Casa Hacienda’ refer to previous farming country houses adjacent to the Pasig River, and Provisor refers to the distribution of essential goods rather than production. Note that many preserved rural place names on the outskirts of Metro Manila are not Hispanic but Tagalog.

There are 15 Hispanic historical transport place names in Metro Manila spread across the region. They tend to be located on the outskirts of the main historical settlements and refer to terrestrial and aquatic transport. These items are found in Navotas (4), Taguig (2), Tondo (2), Valenzuela (2), Caloocan, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Pasay, and Santa Ana. All the place names in Navotas refer to aquatic transport (ferry terminals, Badeo), while some items to the north of the region (Pritil in Tondo, Reparo in Caloocan, ‘Paso de Blas’ and Parada in Valenzuela) depict the transport route to the north of Luzon used during the Spanish period. Note the interesting case of Estación for the train station in Pasay.

There are 14 Hispanic historical place names in Metro Manila related to public administration and political powers. Eleven are located in the historical district of Intramuros, Palacio de cañang in San Miguel, Kapitolyo in Pasig —formerly Rizal Province —, and ‘Casa Consulado’ in Quiapo. Kapitolyo and ‘Casa Consulado’ are related to public administration and political powers after the Spanish rule in the Philippines, while the 11 place names located in Intramuros are related to the Spanish administration.

There are ten Hispanic historical nonprofit place names in Metro Manila. Four are located in Paco, two in Isla de Convalencia (Isla de Convalecencia) — an island in the Pasig River, district of San Miguel, bordering Ermita and Paco —, two in Sampaloc, and one each in Malabon and Mandaluyong. Except for those in Mala-
Hispanic social place names of Manila

Intramuros. All refer to supporting impoverished people, although ‘Asociación Feminista Filipina’ also pertains to feminist activism. There are nine Hispanic historical financial place names in Metro Manila. Two located in Intramuros (Aduana, Almacenes) are also related to the administrative and military activities during the Spanish period, while the other seven in Binondo reflect the private activities of the bourgeoisie that became more and more influential on the side of the Pasig River facing Intramuros.

There are seven Hispanic historical leisure place names in Metro Manila. Some of them reflect upper-class leisure options: ‘Casa Tesoro’ (crafts and auction house) in Ermita, Hipódromo (horse racecourse) in Makati and Santa Mesa, and Pancitería (pancit restaurant) in Binondo. Others, distant from Intramuros, depict more popular hobbies: Matadero (cockpit arena) in Malabon, or Pelota (ball game court) in Las Piñas.

Finally, there are 21 elements classified under Another social function. Three refer to event venues or meeting points for different social groups: ‘Casa Katipunero’ in Malabon, ‘Plaza Liga Filipina’ in Tondo, and ‘Casino Español de Manila’ in Ermita. Two refer to stations of the Spanish Civil Gard: ‘Cuartel del Guardia Civil’ in Pasig, and Retén in Sampaloc. Población (Caloocan, Makati, Mandaluyong, Muntinlupa, Pateros, Valenzuela), Visita in Makati, and Divisoria in Tondo describe the social-urban nature of the territory. ‘El Depósito’ and Tuberías refer to the water supply infrastructure built in San Juan during the Spanish period. Mestizo in San Nicolas describes the community living in the area. There are two socially relevant buildings in Santa Ana: Simboryo and Revellin. Malaria in Caloocan suggests that the area has been historically prone to malaria outbreaks, while Hormiga (Binondo) and Quiricada (Santa Cruz) metaphorically describe the busy streets and neighborhoods.

Most administrative and military place names are located in Intramuros — the core of Spanish Manila. Aduana and Almacenes...
refer to both financial and administrative or military functions, while Parián is the only place name in Intramuros pointing to a different activity. However, this working-class place name inside Intramuros refers to a site outside the walls. Outside Intramuros but still close on the other bank of the Pasig River, most financial place names are found in Binondo. This district hosts all the financial names except for Aduana and Almacenes, which are classified in two categories. Note that Manila’s bourgeoisie lived in Binondo during the 19th and 20th centuries. An area a little further away from Intramuros is home to most nonprofit place names (Paco, Sampaloc, San Miguel), as well as some leisure activities related to the upper classes: horse racecourses in Santa Mesa and Makati, a restaurant in Binondo, or a crafts and auction house in Ermita. In contrast, Matadero (cockpit arena in Malabon) and Pelota (ball game court in Las Piñas) are found on the outskirts.

The patterns for working-class place names are more complex as they are widespread in the study area. However, the larger number of items in areas surrounding Intramuros, especially on the opposite bank of the Pasig River (Binondo, Quiapo, San Nicolas), indicates economic and working activities. In the case of Binondo, these names refer to financial place names, as trading activities and incipient industrial production, frequently linked to mestizo communities (e.g., Mestizo) and liberal professions (e.g., Prensa) gave rise to Manila’s bourgeoisie at the end of the Spanish and during the American period. In other places, guilds and specific working groups are evident: in Port Area and Navotas, all working-class place names are related to fishing and shipping activities, and particularly in Navotas, all the transport place names are linked to aquatic transportation. In any case, working-class place names are closer to Intramuros than rural and transport place names, the last and further spatial categories.

Rural and transport place names are commonly located on the outskirts of Metro Manila, further away than working-class items. They refer to farming areas where the main routes to the north and south of Luzon were established. The few closer rural place
names pertain to initial farming activities that were subsequently abandoned (Quinta, Casa Hacienda) or to distribution more than production areas (Provisor). Transport place names are linked to the main land routes or water infrastructure, the former on the outskirts of Manila, and the latter surrounding creeks, rivers, and the Manila Bay.

3. Conclusions

Place names depict the Geography, History, Linguistics, and Society of territories all over the world. Urban place names tend to focus on social dimensions: they reflect the society and individualities of different times and communities, their distribution, political struggles, economic interests, and domination strategies (Berg & Vuolteenaho, 2009; Calvet, 1974: 79–86; Guillorel, 2008; Higman & Hudson, 2009: 18–19; Shohamy & Waksman, 2009: 313–315).

In the case of Metro Manila’s Hispanic social place names, Intramuros is the city core, an administrative and military walled district closed to other social activities. Around Intramuros, the central financial powers and activities are depicted in Binondo, followed by upper-class leisure activities and nonprofit organizations. Names referring to work activities are scattered all over the map, still following some patterns, and the outer spatial ring is occupied by rural activities and transport-related place names.

Nowadays, Manila’s growth and changes in historical place names have blurred the toponymical reflection of social distribution in the colonial city, but they have not eradicated it. Preserved Hispanic Metro Manila’s place names still reflect the history and society of the urban congregation with its core at Intramuros — the political, military, and religious center — surrounded by Binondo and Ermita — economic powers — and with rural and transport-related activities on the outskirts.
4. References


The Urban Roamer (2012b, April 30). Roaming the neighborhood: Barangay Kapitolyo. The Urban Roamer. https://www.theurbanroamer.com/roaming-barangay-kapitolyo/

The Urban Roamer (2020, October 27). The “Simboryo” at Taguig cemetery. The Urban Roamer. https://www.theurbanroamer.com/simboryo-at-taguig-cemetery/


Appendix A. Style Guidelines

Each entry is presented following this style:


For example:


A.1. Specific observations

[Normative Formula] Name

The popular and official name spelling is preserved, but the equivalent current normative Spanish formula is first written between square brackets: [Almacén de Pólvora] Almacen de Polvora. Filipino names almost coincident with Spanish names are written following the Filipino or popular spelling norms, after the Spanish normative formula stated between square brackets: [Cinco] Singco.

The list is alphabetically ordered according to the Normative Formula. If it coincides, it is alphabetically ordered according to the rest of the parameters: Name, Current Type of Place, and Coordinates.

Abbreviations are also explained in the bracketed formula and Hispanic historical names losing popularity are signaled under the label ‘Disused’ between square brackets.
Current Type of Place

Type of place or purpose of the current place: Avenue, Barangay, Bridge, Bus Station, Cockpit Arena, Creek, District, Educational Building, Extension, Event Venue, Ferry Terminal, Fire Station, Fountain, Healthcare Center, Historical Building, Historical Business, Island, Landmark, Lighthouse, Market, Museum, Pass, Park, Playground, Police Station, Port, Pumping Station, Religious Building, Reservoir, Residential Area, Residential Building, River, Road, Sports Facilities, Street, Square.

Barangay is a popular administrative division in the Philippines, similar to a neighborhood in big cities, a district in small towns, and a village in rural areas.

Other Names

Other names for the same place. If these other names are currently in use, separate Hispanic and historical — coined before the 1945 Manila battle — entries are stated for all options, relating the different solutions in their respective sections ‘Other Names’. For example, different entries are listed for ‘Almacén de Pólvora’ and ‘El Polvorín’, stating the alternative name in the ‘Other Names’ section. They are treated as different items in the final analysis, as such names are unique and the present study focuses on names.

Baluarte and Baluartillo, Faro and Farola, El Hogar and El Hogar Filipino are gathered and discussed in the same entry, stating both options in the ‘Name’ section and separating them with a comma.

Old Hispanic names not in use today but still interesting for the historical analysis are listed under ‘Old Name’ between square brackets. Hispanic historical names losing popularity are signaled under ‘Disused’ between square brackets. The normative Spanish spelling for these other place names is not given in this section, but in their proper differentiate entries between square brackets before their current common names (see section ‘[Normative Formula] Name’).
Coordinates

Geographic coordinates in decimal degrees are provided for all entries to allow readers and researchers to obtain accurate physical information about the places. For large entities like districts or roads, coordinates correspond to the central point. Geographic coordinates are more useful and offer more rigorous information than descriptions.

Translation

The English translation is provided. Defining names are always translated. For agionyms or religious anthroponyms, translations are given if they are rooted in the English tradition — e.g., Saint Andrew, Saint Lucy, Saint Michael. If the original Spanish place name has the preposition ‘de’, it is translated using the English ‘of’ — i.e. ‘Puerta de Almacenes’ is translated as ‘Gate of Warehouses’, but ‘Puerta Real’ is translated as ‘Royal Gate’.

Explanation and comments

A short explanation and additional information are provided at the end of the entry. Dates, places — current city in Metro Manila or district in the City of Manila —, the historical evolution, social functions, Tagalog influences, and other relevant facts are indicated. To this end, I mainly relied on Isagani Medina’s linguistic comments in Streets of Manila (Ira & Medina, 1977) and the book Daluyan: A Historical Dictionary of the Streets of Manila (NHIP, 2006). Additional sources consulted for specific entries are cited as needed.

The information provided herein is separated by semicolons, and the elements in an entry are separated by periods.

Families of items

In some cases, a historical toponym occurs in several current places. To facilitate the discussion, I have gathered the results under the same entry,
stating some basic historical information at the beginning and then listing
the current items in separate lines after a tab without repeating the ini-
tial historical information, for example, Almacenes: Almacenes Reales,
Puerta de Almacenes.

First, the historical name is given after the normative formula be-
tween square brackets, followed by its translation, historical category, and
explanation and comments. Then, in the lines that follow, current entities,
including the historical place name, are listed after their normative for-
mulas between square brackets, followed by the current type of place and
coordinates. Additional sections, like translation, historical category,
and explanation and comments, are added as needed, but they do not re-
peat the information previously stated. The historical name and current
entities follow the guidelines stated herein.

The same Hispanic place name may be historically present and pre-
served in different areas of Manila. If so, the name represents a family
of entries and the number of places the name refers to is indicated after
its name, for example, [Hipódromo] Hipodromo, horse racecourse (2).
For Intramuros, Las Piñas, and Zapote, there are many items including
these names, and I analyzed the settlements and their names in a generic
entry. In the case of ‘[Población] Poblacion (6)’, there are six areas with
multiple items that include the toponym, and I analyzed the generic name
Población as a family of entries followed by generic entries for each area.

Appendix B. List of Place Names

Aceite. Oil. Working-class. Street and extension in Santa Mesa surround-
ing the former Philippine Vegetable Oil Company.

Aceite. Extension. 14.5969949, 121.0022253

Aceite. Street. 14.5977494, 121.0028826

Aduana. Historical Building. La Intendencia. 14.5939, 120.9745. Cus-
toms. Financial, Public Administration. Building in Intramuros that housed
government offices during the Spanish period, among them the Customs Offices (Aduana) and the Civil Administration Offices (La Intendencia).


Almacenes. Warehouses. Financial, Military. Building and adjacent gate in the Intramuros wall that stored goods from the galleons and other vessels during the Spanish period.


Arroceros. Rice Dealers. Working Class. Area in Ermita that hosted a rice market, whose product mainly came from the province of Laguna; during the 19th century, a tobacco factory called ‘Fábrica de Arroceros’ was established.

Arroceros. Fire Station. 14.593184, 120.981908

Arroceros. Pumping Station. 14.593141, 120.983199

Arroceros Forest Park. Park. 14.594206, 120.981614


Ayuntamiento de Manila. Historical Building. Casas Consistoriales, Marble Palace. 14.592481, 120.973512. City Hall of Manila. Public Administration. Building in Intramuros that served as the Spanish City Hall since 1609; in 1903, it was converted into the office of the American military governor, and since 2013, it serves as the headquarters of the Bureau of the Treasury.

Balante. Creek. 14.6375742, 121.103458. Ram, Sheep. Rural. Creek in Marikina where farming and cattle-ranching activities were carried out.

Baluarte, Baluartillo (12). Bastion, Little Bastion. Military. Twelve bastions or little bastions built in the Intramuros wall during the Spanish period.


Banco Nacional. National Bank. Financial. Bridge, dock, and street in the area where the old Philippine National Bank (PNB) was established in 1916.


Banquero. Street. 14.599222, 120.979429. Banker. Financial. Street that crosses Escolta Street (Scort Street) and Muelle del Banco Nacional (Dock of the National Bank), not far from the Monte de Piedad y Caja de Ahorros building (Mount of Piety and Savings Bank), it reflects the historical financial activities in the district of Binondo.


Barrio Obrero (2). Working-class Neighborhood. Working-class. Two areas are called Barrio Obrero, one in northern Tondo and another in Pandancon; both refer to the social condition of the local inhabitants.

Barrio Obrero. Residential Area. 14.611743, 120.975206

Barrio Obrero. Street. 14.592, 121.012935


Barrio Obrero Elementary School. Educational Building. 14.635572, 120.978995
Hispanic social place names of Manila [217]

Iglesia Ni Cristo Lokal Ng Barrio Obrero. Religious Building.
14.6344, 120.9792. Church of Christ Locale of Worker District


Street and riding track in San Nicolas used by Spanish horsemen.

Public Administration. Street in Intramuros where the former City Hall
(Ayuntamiento, Casas Consistoriales) and the Cathedral are located.

Seller. Working-class. Street in Quiapo; according to Ira and Medina
(1977), its name refers to lime-related activities carried out in front of
the old prison (p. 112).

Calzada. Road. Transport. Area and barangay in Taguig, also known
as Calzada Tipas (Tagalog language Tipas: Cut, Diversion); during the
Spanish times, the area had the only road between Tipas and Napindan,
where the Pasig River discharges into Laguna de Bay.


   Calzada. Health Center. 14.533731, 121.079969


Camarilla. Camarilla, Clique, Small Military Unit. Military. Area and
streets besides Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, headquarters of the Armed
Forces of the Philippines since 1935.

   1st Camarilla. Street. 14.615185, 121.062718

   2nd Camarilla. Street. 14.614116, 121.06245
3rd Camarilla. Street. 14.613271, 121.06281

4th Camarilla. Street. 14.614031, 121.06274

5th Camarilla. Street. 14.614703, 121.06289

6th Camarilla. Street. 14.614347, 121.063544

Camarilla Elementary School. Educational Building. 14.615032, 121.063175

[Camarín] Camarin. Cottage, Small Chamber. Rural. Area in Caloocan, rural during the Spanish period, when it was a village of ‘camarines’, or nipa and bamboo cottages.

[Camarín] Camarin. Avenue. 14.739667, 121.047861


[Camarín] Camarin. Bus Station. 14.768297, 121.043803

[Camarín] Camarin. Road. 14.7562112, 121.0461597


[Camarín High School] Camarin High School. Educational Building. 14.762238, 121.048889

Camino Real. Road. 14.416921, 121.006924. Royal Road. Transport. Section of the old Calle Real in Las Piñas, now Alabang-Zapote Road.

[Capitolio] Kapitolyo. Capitol. Public Administration. Ruins of the old capitol of the province of Rizal, now in Pasig, built in the early 20th century; also, its adjacent district in Pasig (The Urban Roamer [TUR], 2012a, 2012b).


Casa Hacienda. Park. Poblacion. 14.567667, 121.033068. Hacienda House. Rural. Park in Makati, besides the Pasig River, where a Jesuit hacienda with plantations was initially located; afterward, it served as the trade base for the Roxas family. The buildings were demolished during the 20th century, and the plot was transformed into a park that preserves the name (Makati City Government [MCG], 2017).


Casa Tesoro. Historical Building. 14.57672, 120.981552. Treasure House. Leisure. Upper-class palace built in Ermita in 1901 that has served as an antiques and crafts house since before the 1945 Manila battle.

Casas Consistoriales. Historical Building. Ayuntamiento de Manila, Marble Palace. 14.592481, 120.973512. City Halls. Public Administration. Building in Intramuros that served as the Spanish City Hall since 1609. In 1903, it was converted to the office of the American military governor, and since 2013, it serves as the headquarters of the Bureau of the Treasury.


Cementina. Cementine. Working-class. Area in Pasay where factories and work activities related to cement production were probably carried out.
Cementina. Extension. 14.548004, 121.001845

Cementina. Street. 14.547927, 121.001519


Comercio. Business, Commerce, Market, Store, Trade. 14.602923, 120.971399. Commerce. Working-class. Area in San Nicolas where trading activities and markets have been established since the Spanish period. There are other areas named Comercio all over the city where trading activities are neither prevailing nor historical.

Compañía General de Tabacos de Filipinas. Historical Building, Historical Business. Compañía Española de Tabacos de Filipinas [Old Name], La Tabacalera. 14.58589, 120.987251. General Company of Tobacco of the Philippines. Working-class. Building and factory of a tobacco company established in Ermita in 1881, although the current building was constructed during the 20th century and later acquired by the Adamson University.

Cuadra. Street. 14.687298, 121.016726. Block, Stable. Rural. Street and area in Novaliches, Quezon City, where stables were located during the Spanish period.

[Cuartel de la Guardia Civil] Cuartel del Guardia Civil. Historical Building. Guanio Residence. 14.5816589,121.084444. Barracks of the Civil Guard. Another social function. Built in Pasig in 1881 as a private house and then transformed into a station of the Spanish Civil Guard. In the 20th
century, the building was bought by the Guanio family (Pasig City Government, 2017).


[Dádivas] Dadivas. Street. 14.6035241,120.97407. Gifts. Working-class. This street already appeared on maps before the Manila battle, and its location in the heart of the financial and commercial area of Binondo is related to trading activities.


Deparo. Road. 14.740062, 121.025693

Deparo Elementary School. Educational Building. 14.7412938, 121.021953

Deparo High School. Educational Building. 14.7398, 121.0114

Deparo Subdivision. Residential Area. 14.73984 121.02796

[Destilería Limtuaco] Destileria Limtuaco. Historical Business. 14.6581035, 121.009112949. Limtuaco Distillery. Working-class. Distillery established in Binondo in 1850 and then moved to Caloocan in 1939, although its current facilities were built at a later time (Destileria Limtuaco, n.d.).


[El Depósito] El Depósito. Historical Building, Reservoir. 14.60 4773, 121.030542


Escaldo. Street. 14.598802, 120.984548. Burnt. Rural, Working-class. Street in Quiapo. According to Daluyan (National Historical Institute (Philippines), 2006), the name refers to a burned ground related to former farming or industrial activities (p. 30); however, some sources relate the name to candle manufacturing to supply the Quiapo church.
Escolta. Escort. Financial, Working-class. Street and area in Binondo with intense trading and economic activities throughout Manila’s history. The nature of these activities, the arrival of goods through the close Pasig River, and the main banks and bankers in the area warranted the presence of guards and escorts.


Escolta. Street. 14.596863, 120.977182

Escolta River Ferry. Ferry Terminal. 14.596433, 120.977496

Escolta Twin Towers. Residential Building. 14.597506, 120.978708


Faro, Farola (2). Lantern, Lighthouse. Transport, Working-class. Two historical lighthouses (no longer existing) with names currently used to refer to surrounding buildings. The Taguig lighthouse was demolished during the Philippine Revolution (Frialde, 2013); the Tondo lighthouse was brought down in 1992 and subsequently rebuilt. Several streets and alleys in Manila are called Farol and Farola, but I found no evidence of any distinctive lantern or lights.

Hispanic social place names of Manila


[Farola Ng Napindan] Parola Ng Napindan. Lighthouse. Parola. 14.525701, 121.107796

Fraternal. Street. 14.597263, 120.987841. Fraternal. Working-class. Narrow street in the heart of Quiapo, whose name derives from the guild, social, and communal character of its settlers.


Fundidor. Street. 14.601348, 120.971506. Foundry Worker. Working-class. Street and area in San Nicolas where smelters and warehouses were common.


[Hipódromo] Hipodromo, Hippodromo (2). Horse racecourse. Leisure. Streets and subsequent public facilities whose names derive from two racecourses: one in Santa Mesa, established in 1881 (TUR, 2009), and the other in Makati, founded in 1936 and active until 2008.


[Hipódromo] Hipodromo. Street. 14.60035, 121.008995

[Hipódromo] Hippodromo. Street. 14.5715906, 121.019629

[Hipódromo Covered Court] Hipodromo Covered Court. Sports Facilities. 14.601672, 121.008006


Industria (2). Industry. Working-class. Several areas in Metro Manila where factories and other industrial activities have been established; the ones in Binondo and Pandacan have a deep history and identity.

Industria. Street. 14.5919, 121.003905. Street and area in Pandacan where highly esteemed shoe manufacturing and textile industries were located during the Spanish period, later replaced by oil depots during the American period (Ira & Medina, 1977: 223).
Muelle de la Industria. Port, Street. 14.59594, 120.975556. Dock of the Industry. Dock and street in San Nicolas and Binondo dedicated to industrial activities; the street and the area were later occupied by Manila’s bourgeoisie, who built elegant neoclassical buildings during the American period.


Insular. Street. 14.601292, 120.974259. Insular. Working-class. Street in Binondo whose name comes from the former cigarette factory and historical building so named and demolished in 1944.

Intramuros. District. 14.5896, 120.9747. Within Walls. Military, Public Administration. Historical district of Manila surrounded by walls where the Spanish military, political, and religious powers were established. The toponym is used extensively over the district and in other parts of Manila and the Philippines with no direct relationship.


Jaboneros. Street. 14.597844, 120.969724. Soap Makers, Soap Sellers. Working-class. Street in San Nicolas where soap manufacturers and dealers were common during the Spanish period.

Labores. Street. 14.589038, 121.003099. Works. Working-class. Street and area in Pandacan where highly esteemed shoe manufacturing and textile industries were located during the Spanish period, later replaced by oil depots during the American period.
La Campana Fabrica de Tabacos. Historical Business. Mighty Corporation. 14.575401, 121.022815. The Bell Factory of Tobacco. Working-class. Building and tobacco factory established in Makati in September 1945, a few weeks after Manila’s battle but still classified as historical.

La Huerta (3). The Orchard, The Vegetable Garden. Rural. Area in Parañaque and small areas in Muntinlupa and Valenzuela where orchards were established during the Spanish period.

Don Galo - La Huerta. Bridge. 14.502183, 120.992829

[La Huerta] La Guerta. Street. 14.387397, 121.046327

La Huerta. Barangay. 14.50059, 120.991369

La Huerta. Street. 14.673753, 120.992044

La Huerta Elementary School. Educational Building. 14.498148, 120.993232


La Intendencia. Historical Building. Aduana. 14.5939, 120.9745. The Civil Administration. Public Administration. Building in Intramuros that housed government offices during the Spanish rule of Manila, among them the Civil Administration Offices (La Intendencia) and the Customs Offices (Aduana).

La Tabacalera. Historical Building, Historical Business. Compañía Española de Tabacos de Filipinas [Old Name], Compañía General de Tabacos de Filipinas. 14.58589, 120.987251. The Tobacco Company. Working-class. Facilities and factory of a tobacco company established in Ermita in 1881, although the current building was constructed during the 20th century, later acquired by the Adamson University. There is a barangay in Pateros named Tabacalera, but I found no relationship between La Tabacalera company or any other tobacco activities and this barangay.

Las Piñas. City. 14.4445, 120.9939. The Pineapples, The Rocks. Rural. There are two explanations for its etymology. One option considers pineapple farming and trade (Las Piñas: The Pineapples); another explanation relates the place name to the surrounding rocks used for construction (Las Peñas: The Rocks). According to historical documentation, both options are plausible, but I consider the latter more feasible. The toponym is used extensively to name places all over the city.


Maestranza. Street. 14.5939839, 120.9729154
Maestranza Creative Quarter. Historical Building, Museum. 14.5941168, 120.9725759


Malaria. Malaria. Another social function. Road and area in Caloocan, which may have taken this name for being prone to malaria outbreaks.

Malaria. Road. 14.770514, 121.076927

Malaria Basketball Court. Sports Facilities. 14.769715, 121.079308


Hispanic social place names of Manila [231]


Muralla. Wall. Military. Walls and adjacent street built during the Spanish period, delimiting Intramuros (Within Walls).

Muralla. Historical Building. Intramuros Walls. 14.5898, 120.9791

Muralla. Street. 14.593521, 120.977477

Obrero (2). Working-class. Area and barangay in Quezon City that refers to the social condition of its early settlers. Also, a street in Makati and a non-historical street in Marikina. Note that it is different from Barrio Obrero.

Obrero. Barangay. 14.6287, 121.0299

Obrero. Street. 14.571238, 121.022467

[Palacio de Malacañán] Palasyo Ng Malacañang. Historical Building. Malacañang Palace, Palacio de Malacañán [Old Name]. 14.5939, 120.9945. Palace of Malacañang. Public Administration. Historical mansion built in San Miguel in 1750. Later, it was the residence of the Spanish Governor-General since 1863, of American governors since 1898, and, finally, of the President of the Philippines since 1935.


Panaderos. Bakers. Working-class. Area in Santa Ana that was a bakery center during the Spanish period (Traveler On Foot, 2008a).

   New Panaderos. Extension. 14.585398, 121.018625

   Old Panaderos. Street. 14.58471, 121.01591


Parada. Stop. Rural, Transport. Area and barangay in Valenzuela that hosted a horse carriage parking lot during the Spanish period (Valenzuela City Government [VCG], n.d.).

   Parada. Barangay. 14.69591098, 120.98840833

   Parada. Extension. 14.697988, 120.997341


   Parada Basketball Court. Sports Facilities. 14.696048, 120.989457
Parada Elementary School. Educational Building. 14.6981144, 120.9877217

Parada Health Station. Health Center. 14.695797, 120.989251

Parada National High School. Educational Building.
14.694 642, 120.990271

[Parián] Parian (3). Chinese market, Chinese place, Market. Working-class. Several trading areas, most of them initially inhabited by Chinese Hokkien communities; the one outside Intramuros is historically relevant.


[Parián] Parian. District. Pantín [Old Name], Parián de Arroceros [Old Name]. 14.592218, 120.978076. Area in Manila, being the most important Parian during the Spanish period.


Paso de Blas. Passage of Blaise. Transport. Area and barangay in Valenzuela, besides Parada, in a strategical point between the City of Manila and the north of Luzon.
Paso de Blas. Barangay. 14.703476, 120.993604

Paso de Blas. Fire Station. 14.707783, 120.992577

Paso de Blas. Road. 14.7067548, 120.9907509

Paso de Blas Chapel. Religious Building. 14.704957, 120.988702

Paso de Blas Elementary School. Educational Building. 14.7056, 120.99132

Paso de Blas National High School. Educational Building. 14.704438, 120.98682

[Paso del Diablo] Pasong Diablo. Passage of the Devil. Transport. River and surrounding area in Muntinlupa, near Laguna de Bay, is a strategic point between the City of Manila and the south of Luzon.

Pasong Diablo. Bridge. 14.423875, 121.045303


Pastor. Street. 14.633768, 120.969438. Shepherd. Rural. Street in North Tondo, Daluyan (National Historical Institute (Philippines), 2006). This name is related to Protestant Churches in the area (p. 84); however, its location outside historical urban Manila, between Estero de Maypajo (Estuary of a kind of mango) and Estero de Sunog Apog (Estuary of Lime Combustion), close to other farming place names like Bukid (Tagalog Language: Farm), links it to rural activities.
Hispanic social place names of Manila

Pateros. Municipality. 14.4445, 120.9939. Duck keepers, Duck raisers. Rural. The only municipality in Metro Manila — the rest of the localities are cities —, it was the center of the duck egg industry during the Spanish period (Doeppers, 2016: 197). The toponym is spread all over the municipality.

Pelota. Sports Facilities. 14.4343, 120.9827. Ball, Basque Pelota. Leisure. A ball game of Hispanic origin that was popular in the Philippines during the Spanish period and still played in some areas of the country. The place in Las Piñas is nowadays a skate park built inside a former ballgame court.


Pescador II. Street. 14.647926, 120.950802. Fisherman II. Working-class. Street in Navotas Fish Port Complex.

[Platerías] Platerias. Street. 14.599317, 120.982743. Silversmith. Working-class. Street in Quiapo where silversmith activities were popular during the Spanish period.


[Población] Poblacion (6). Population, Town. Another social function. In the Philippines, Poblacion refers to a town or city center. As Metro Manila is composed of several current and historical settlements, there are six places named Poblacion. Although they are commonly referred as
Poblacion, here I mention the city they belong after the word Poblacion (e.g., Poblacion Caloocan). The place name Poblacion is widely used all over the six districts to name business and public facilities, Poblacion Makati being the most relevant one.

[Population Caloocan] Poblacion Caloocan. Barangay. 14.649 0.120.9711


Postigo (2). Military. Two wickets built in the Intramuros wall during the Spanish area: ‘Postigo del Palacio’ (Postern of the Palace) and ‘Postigo de la Nuestra Señora del Soledad’ (Postern of Our Lady of the Solitude, originally ‘Postigo de Nuestra Señora de la Soledad’); some adjacent elements have adopted the name.


Potrero. Pastureland. Rural. Area and barangay in Malabon. Its geographic nature, historical rural activities in the area, and location adjacent to the Tullahan River and close to other areas like Parada or Paso de Blas, relate its name to herds and pastureland.

Potrero. Barangay. 14.664873, 120.978672


Prensa. Street. 14.596456, 120.97359. Press. Working-class. Street in Binondo where the first printing presses of the Philippines were established by the Chinese Keng Yong and later by Tomás Pinpin. The printing-press tradition in the area remained until the 20th century.

[Pretil] Pritil. Parapet. Transport. Bridge that connects Tondo with Caloocan, and its surrounding area; a market that still exists was established under the same name.


Provisor. Provider. Rural. Small island and adjacent creek in a strategical position in Ermita, where a thermal power plant was located during the second half of the 20th century. Its name derives from its role in distributing and supplying food and other essential goods during the Spanish period (see also Tanque).

Estero de Provisor. Creek. 14.5875399, 120.9893349

Isla de Provisor. Island. 14.5885212, 120.9887076


Puerta Real. Royal Gate. Military, Public Administration. Gate built in the Intramuros wall during the Spanish period, initially exclusive for the Spanish Governor-General.

Puerta Real. Historical Building. 14.586174, 120.9773509

Puerta Real Gardens. Historical Building, Park. 14.586185, 120.977585

Quinta. Countryside Villa, Farm. Rural. Dock, market, and street in Quiapo supposedly close to an old farm or countryside villa (no longer existing), facing Estero de San Miguel (Estuary of Saint Michael) and the Pasig River.


Quinta. Market. 14.596453, 120.982742

Quiricada. Hullabaloo. Another social function. Street in Santa Cruz. Daluyan (National Historical Institute (Philippines), 2006) states that it is an eponym (p. 90); however, it probably describes the busy area.

Quiricada. Bridge. 14.613293, 120.979578

Quiricada. Street. 14.6132602, 120.9801758

Real. Street. Calle Real del Parián [Old Name]. 14.590847, 120.976342. Royal. Public Administration. Street that crosses Intramuros from ‘Puerta de Santa Lucía’ (Gate of Saint Lucy) to ‘Puerta del Parian’ (Gate of the Market), the epithet Real refers to the Hispanic Monarchy and the Spanish Governor-General.


Reparo. Repair, Rest. Transport, Working-class. Long road and surrounding area at the border between Manila and Caloocan (I classified it under Caloocan). Its geographic nature, historical activities in the area, and location on the way to the north of Luzon, close to areas like Parada, Paso de Blas, or Potrero, relate this name to former transport routes.


Reparo. Road. 14.666113, 120.993183


Soda. Street. 14.597292, 120.978347. Soda water. Working-class. Street in Binondo where a soda water factory was located during the Spanish period.


Tanque (2). Tank, Water Tank. This name is given to two places. One refers to an area, creek, and street in Paco adjacent to the Pasig River whose geography, similarity with Tanque in Cavite, and surrounding place names like Provisor indicate the existence of a water tank that supplied vessels (Fish, 2011). The other place, spelled Tangke, is an area in Valenzuela where the battle of Malinta took place during the Philippine-American war — artillery pieces from that event were found in 2012 (Caiña, 2013).


Tinajeros. Earthenware Manufacturers. Working-class. Area and barangay in Malabon where pots were manufactured during the Spanish period, mainly to supply and store water and salt (Doeppers, 2016: 186, 254).


Tinajeros. Barangay. 14.6732763, 120.9689892

Tinajeros. Bridge. 14.673921, 120.963032
Tinajeros Day Care Center. Educational Building. 14.673665, 120.964295

Tinajeros Elementary School. Educational Building. 14.671273, 120.969973

Tinajeros National High School. Educational Building. 14.671782, 120.969795

Toneleros. Street. 14.598405, 120.97358. Coopers. Working-class. Small street in San Nicolas that connects ‘Muelle de Binondo’ (Dock of Binondo) and Barraca (Barracks). The name reflects the cargo activities and barrel manufacturing operations in the area.

Torre. Tower. Military. Two streets in Tondo, La Torre, and Torera, which held Moro pre-Hispanic fortifications; the adjacent Tagalog place name Mayhaligue refers to the wood pillars of those fortifications (Castro, 2019).

La Torre. Street. 14.58027, 121.01293

Torera. Street. 14.611439, 120.977947

Toro. Bull. Rural. Area in Quezon City, commonly known as Bahay Toro. In the past, it was a farming area where carabaos grazed and fed and was also a strategic point during the Philippine Revolution (Wikimapia, n.d.); Tagalog-language Bahay means House.

Bahay Toro. Avenue. 14.671528, 121.035167


Bahay Toro. Fire Station. 14.664628, 121.021111

Bahay Toro. Park. Toro Hills. 14.664118, 121.021216
Hispanic social place names of Manila

Bahay Toro Tennis Court. Sports Facilities. Toro Hills Tennis Court. 14.664081, 121.020614


Toro Hills Elementary School. Educational Building. 14.665051, 121.020726


Toro Hills Tennis Court. Sports Facilities. Bahay Toro Tennis Court. 14.664081, 121.020614

Trabajo (3). Labor, Work. Working-class. A market in Sampaloc, a street in Makati, and a street in Malabon. The name is related to historical trade and manufacturing activities.

Trabajo. Market. 14.61, 120.996

Trabajo. Street. 14.574171, 121.02229

Trabajo. Street. 14.671069, 120.966458

Tres. Three. Transport. Third ferry terminal established to cross the Navotas River; this name is also used for its surrounding area.

Tres. Ferry Terminal. 14.667425, 120.945247


[Vado] Badeo. Wading. Transport. Area and a series of small streets or alleys adjacent to the Navotas River ferry terminals to cross it; some of them have been renamed.

Badeo 2. Street. 14.663117, 120.946113

Badeo 5. Street. 14.672435, 120.937986

Varadero (2). Dry Dock. Working-class. Two streets in different areas of the Navota coast where vessels were constructed, repaired, and parked; the one with location 14.637757, 120.954517 is still in use.

Varadero. Street. 14.655531, 120.94809

[Varadero] Baradero. Street. 14.637757, 120.954517

Visita. Street. 14.567727, 121.01609. Visit. Another social function. Street and area in Makati that was a visita of Santa Ana de Sapa, i.e., an area with no priest that depended on the visits of neighboring priests for religious services (Makati City Government, n.d.).

Yunque. Street. 14.573388, 121.021279. Anvil. Working-class. Street in Makati where metal manufacturing activities were developed near a horse racecourse.


Zapatero. Street. 14.6343711, 121.0939251. Shoemaker. Working-class. Street in Marikina that was a shoe manufacturing and leather production center supplying the Philippines since the end of the 19th century.

and Cavite. Farming land south of the capital city where Sapote plants thrived; other farming place names, like La Huerta or Las Piñas, are used in the zone. The toponym is extensively used over the area.

**Appendix C. Maps**

1898 De Gamoneda’s Map
1934 Map of the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA)
Metro Manila’s Current Administrative Map (Adkranz, 2014)