

(H. B. 2153)

(No. 84-2015)

(Approved June 9, 2015)

AN ACT

To designate the Former Alfonso XII Aqueduct located at the San Tomás Hill in the Old Mameyes Ward in Ponce, a Historic Landmark; direct the Puerto Rico Planning Board to include said landmark in the National Register of Historic Places in Puerto Rico; direct the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office to process the inclusion thereof in the National Register of Historic Places of the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior; and for other purposes.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The Former Alfonso XII Aqueduct is a structure whose construction dates back to the times of the Spanish Empire. It is located at the San Tomás Hill, near the Mameyes Ward in Ponce. Said aqueduct was built with bricks and stonework starting from the mid 19th century to the turn of the 20th. This structure, which is more than 150 years old, constitutes an architectural work vested with great historic value, since it is an example of the hydraulic infrastructure that redeemed and showcased the long and brilliant civil engineering tradition of a forgotten time. The construction of this aqueduct, the first in the Municipality of Ponce, dates back to 1850, and it was built to supply the *Ciudad Señorial* with water during the times of the Spanish Empire.

However, the most singular characteristic of this old aqueduct is not its historic and architectural value, but rather what the same represents to the survivors of the Mameyes tragedy and the residents of the different neighboring communities. The Former Alfonso XII Aqueduct is the only structure that remains from what once was the Old Mameyes Ward, and still bears witness to a catastrophic event that shall never be forgotten by the people of Ponce.

The Former Alfonso XII Aqueduct is a feat of engineering and planning that holds historic and social value, and still retains its structural integrity. Most importantly, however, it also has great educational and tourism potential. This legislation seeks to preserve the memories from the times when this hydraulic infrastructure provided drinking water to Ponce's population, and to make our engineering and architectural tradition known while fostering the conservation of our historic resources. For such reason, this Legislative Assembly recognizes the historic and social value that the Former Alfonso XII Aqueduct holds for Ponce and, therefore, declares it a Puerto Rico Historic Landmark, to be included as such in the Island's Register of Historic Places.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.— The Former Alfonso XII Aqueduct, located in the Municipality of Ponce, is hereby declared a Historic Landmark.

Section 2.— The Puerto Rico Planning Board is hereby directed to include the Former Alfonso XII Aqueduct in the National Register of Historic Places in Puerto Rico.

Section 3.— The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office is hereby directed to process the inclusion of the Former Alfonso XII Aqueduct structure, located in the Old Mameyes Ward in Ponce, in the National Register of Historic Places of the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior.

Section 4.— The Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office is hereby directed to take all the necessary steps to nominate and process the inclusion of the Former Alfonso XII Aqueduct in the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C.

Section 5.— The Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, the Puerto Rico Historic Preservation Office, and the Planning Board shall take the necessary measures to faithfully comply with this Act.

Section 6.— This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following **Act No. 84-2015 (H. B. 2153)** of the **5th Regular Session** of the **17th Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

AN ACT to designate the Former Alfonso XII Aqueduct located at the San Tomás Hill in the Old Mameyes Ward in Ponce, a Historic Landmark; direct the Puerto Rico Planning Board to include said landmark in the National Register of Historic Places in Puerto Rico; direct the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office to process the inclusion thereof in the National Register of Historic Places of the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior; and for other purposes.

has been translated from Spanish to English and that the English version is correct.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 14th day of November, 2017.

Orlando Pagán-Ramírez
Acting Director