

**Chapter 9: Fernando Norzagaray y Escudero: 78th Governor-General of the Philippines**  
**(9 March 1857 – 12 January 1860)**



**Fernando María Félix Mateo Juan Nepomuceno de Norzagaray y Escudero** (19 July 1808 - 12 September 1860) was a Spanish soldier and colonial governor. Of Basque descent, he was a lieutenant general before becoming the 104th Governor of Puerto Rico and the 78th Governor of the Philippines under Spanish colonial rule. He also had a political career in Spain. In 1840 he was briefly Minister of War. On his return to Spain in 1860 he was made a senator, but he died the same year.

Norzagaray was born on 19 July 1808 in San Sebastián, Gipuzkoa, Spain, to military officer Fernando José Norzagaray y Casado, of Talavera de la Reina, and María Estefanía Faustina Juliana Escudero y Villanueva, of Pamplona. He was baptized on 29 July

at the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Chorus, also in San Sebastián.

**Puerto Rico**



General Norzagaray Bridge in Tortugo, San Juan, Puerto Rico

He did extensive infrastructure work in Puerto Rico. One example is the General Norzagaray Bridge, which crosses the Los Frailes stream. Arsenals were constructed, and a cavalry was created.

**Philippines**

Norzagaray authorized establishments of houses of foreign currency exchange on June 18, 1857, just two months after his ascendancy to governor. He ordered local administration reforms in September 1858 and reorganized the infantry in September 1859. In April 1859, ten Jesuit priests arrived in the Philippines, after being allowed again in the archipelago, to persuade Norzagaray to grant a Jesuit school be made. They were given the Escuela Municipal, which is the only primary school in Manila, on October 1, 1859. In 1858 he established a botanical garden, the *Jardín Botánico*, on the site now known as Mehan Garden.

## Cochinchina Campaign

---

Figure: Fernando Norzagaray y Escudero monument (151st Foundation Day, Norzagaray, Bulacan)



He sent Philippine troops to Cochinchina, southern Vietnam, in 1858 in a joint campaign with the French. Both Spain and France claimed to be defending Catholicism in Vietnam, with Spain reacting to the execution of bishop José María Díaz Sanjurjo at Nam Dinh, northern Vietnam, on July 20, 1857. The expedition raised hopes of increasing Philippine trade in Asia, however, Spain and its colony gained little long-term benefit from the four-year campaign.

At the Siege of Tourane, the Spanish navy was represented by the armed despatch vessel *El Cano*, only one of the initial 13 warships used during the campaign. The transport included a marine artillery battery and 1,000 troops drawn from the Spanish garrison of the Philippines, mostly Tagalogs and Visayans. It was put under the command of the French Admiral Charles Rigault de Genouilly. The combined

Franco-Spanish force was forced to evacuate Tourane, giving way to the Vietnamese. The same force was used in the Siege of Saigon, which was put under the same French admiral, and garnered a victory for the combined Franco-Spanish force.

In 1860, most of the Spanish forces under the command of Admiral Bernardo Ruiz de Lanza were withdrawn on French request.<sup>[12]</sup> France went on to develop a colony in Vietnam.

## Legacy

---

A street in the Old San Juan Historic District is named Calle Norzagaray in Puerto Rico. **Casa Rosa** or **Casa Rosada**, also known as the Pink House, is a historic house located in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. The house was built in 1812 as a barrack for the troops assigned to the San Agustín Bastion. It was converted to an officers' quarters in 1881 by the Spanish Army. The building was later converted to a museum used for Puerto Rican crafts. Today it operates as a day care center for the children of employees of the Government of Puerto Rico.

Figure: The Pink House in Calle Norzagaray (Puerto Rico)



In the Philippines, the town of Norzagaray, which was formerly known as Casay, was renamed in his honor. During his term, he separated Casay from Angat and made the former a distinct town. It is the location of Angat Dam which sits on the lower realms of the Sierra Madre mountain range, the Dam is notable for being a major water and power supply for the National Capital Region.

The nucleus of what today is the town of Norzagaray traces from the old barrio *Casay* and barrio *Matictic* which was ecclesiastically and politically administered by the Augustinians from the town of Angat as its visitas as shown in the document "*Mapa del Teritorio de Bulacan*" by Fray Emmanuel Blanco, O.S.A. in 1832 which appeared in another document "*Administracion Espiritual de los Padres Agustinos calzados de la Provincia del Dulce Nombre de Jesus de las Islas Filipinas*" of Fray Francisco Villacorta in 1833.

The people of Barrio Casay worked for reforms politically, socially and economically, in order to be separated from Angat. They succeeded in their separation bid through Governor-General Fernando Norzagaray y Escudero, who issued a Real Cedula declaring barrio Casay together with barrio Matictic to be constituted as a new independent town from Angat. Political boundaries of Angat and *Pueblo de Casay y Matictic* were demarcated and the newly created town was renamed as "Norzagaray" in honor of the Governor-General.

During the American occupation of the Philippines, Norzagaray was returned to Angat by virtue of Act No. 932 beginning in 1903.

Source:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fernando\\_Norzagaray\\_y\\_Escudero](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fernando_Norzagaray_y_Escudero)

1. ["Municipality of Norzagaray"](#). 2007. Archived from [the original](#) on 2012-01-11. Retrieved 2011-10-27.
2. [^ "Historia del Viejo San Juan - la calle Norzagaray en San Juan"](#). 15 October 2018.
3. ["NORZAGARAY Y ESCUDERO, Fernando: File of the Life Senator"](#). Spanish Senate. Retrieved July 25, 2012.
4. [^ "Chronology of the Governors of the 19th century"](#). Archived from [the original](#) on 2011-09-23. Retrieved 2011-10-28.
5. [^ "Governors of the Philippines during the Spanish colonial period"](#). 1997–2002. Retrieved 2011-10-27.

6. [\*"Spain in the Philippines and East Asia in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries"\*](#). Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Archived from [the original](#) on 2012-04-25. Retrieved 2011-10-27.