



SOVRINTENDENZA  
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI  
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

# National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00714

Date of Publication 27 August 2012

<b>Property Name</b>	Parish Church of St. Lawrence Martyr		
<b>Address</b>	Triq San Lawrenz		
<b>Town Name</b>	Birgu	<b>Toponym</b>	-
<b>Property Owner</b>	Religious	<b>Managing Body</b>	-
<b>Guardianship Deed</b>		<b>Local Council</b>	Birgu

<b>Period</b>	Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)		
<b>Phase</b>	Modern: British (1800 - 1964)		
<b>Cultural Heritage Type &amp; Value</b>	Architectural Artistic Historical	<b>Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment</b>	Very High
<b>Property Function</b>	Religious	<b>Conservation Area</b>	-

<b>Outline Description</b>	Large, baroque, stone church.
<b>Property Description</b>	<p>This beautiful and historic church was completed in 1696 and the primitive one known as San Lorenzo-amare was made the first Conventual church of the Order of St John when Grandmaster L'isle Adam declared it as the Conventual church of the Knights and it had served them for 41 years from 1530 to 1571 until the Knights were transferred to the new capital city Valletta. In 1574 the first Inquisitor with a tribunal from the palace in Birgu, Pietro Dusina declared it as the Parish of the Apostolic Delegates and Inquisitors and had served the Delegates for 224 years from 1574 to 1798 until the institution was abolished by the French under Napoleon Bonaparte. Foundation stone in May 1681 by Bishop Michele Giloramo Molina. Inauguration in August 1697 by Bishop Davide Cocco Palmieri. Consecration in 1723 by Bishop Baldassar Gori Mancini. Erected to the dignity of a Collegiate in 1820 by Pope Pius VII during the bishopric of Ferdinando Mattei. This temple suffered great damages during World War II. The greatest ones were on 16th January 1941, the first raid by Nazi on HMS Illustrious when the church lost its sacristy, Chapter Hall and many important documents left by the Knights. The sacristy and Chapter Hall were both re-built in 1949. On 22nd March of the same year the chapel of the blessed Sacrament was destroyed, and on 4th April 1942 the main dome was destroyed and the church became out of action. The chapel was re-built in 1951 and the dome was re-built in 1952 by Prof. Robert V Galea.</p>

<b>Scheduled by MEPA</b>	Yes	<b>Degree of Protection</b>	Grade 1	<b>G.N. No.</b>	0782	<b>G.N. Date</b>	2011
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<b>Recommended Bibliography</b>	Anon., <i>Vittoriosa Churches</i> , Birgu Local Council accessed 18 August 2012 < <a href="http://birgu.gov.mt/node/11">http://birgu.gov.mt/node/11</a> >
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