



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00057

Date of Publication 30 March 2012

Property Name	Għajn Tuffieħa Tower		
Address	Triq Ta' Żammitellu		
Town Name	Għajn Tuffieħa	Toponym	N/A
Property Owner	Government	Managing Body	Unknown
Local Council	Mgarr		
Guardianship Deed	No		

Period	Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)		
Phase	Early Modern: Knights of St John (1530-1798)		
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Architectural Historical	Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment	High
Property Function	Defence	Conservation Area	Not Available

Outline Description	The Għajn Tuffieħa tower is another defensive post built during the reign of GrandMaster Lascaris to protect the Maltese coastline.
Property Description	The tower at Għajn Tuffieħa is located to the north-west of Malta overlooking Għajn Tuffieħa Bay. It stands at an altitude of 20m above sea level. The Għajn Tuffieħa Tower served as one of a chain of watch-out posts found around Malta's coast with the mission to surveille the coastline and warn off any approaching vessels. This tower was placed in a strategic point so to enable communication with other nearby towers such as Lippija and Nadur. This tower was constructed in 1637 at a time of other similar defence constructions happening during the years 1636 to 1657 under the reign of Grand Master Lascaris. The construction of this tower was financed by the Università of Mdina. The tower was armed with a single ½-pounder gun and included a garrison of four soldiers. The preference to build small posts instead of the earlier large garrisoned outposts was mainly due to the Order's limitation to place troops at every prospective landing place. These watch-towers were built to a height of about 11m and covered in plan an area of 6m by 6m. The exterior of these towers had the lower masonry battered and all topped by a flat roof protected by a parapet. Internally, 2-single roomed floors are found. Access to the tower was provided solely to the upper floor, generally reached by a wooden ladder or a 'scala di corda'.

Scheduled by MEPA	Yes	Degree of Protection	Grade 1	G.N. No.	729	G.N. Date	1995
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Recommended Bibliography	Hoppen, A. (1979) <i>The Fortification of Malta by the Order of St. John</i> , Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press
	Spiteri, S.C. (2001) <i>Fortresses of the Knights</i> , Malta: Book Distributors Ltd.
	MEPA Malta Scheduled Property Register

Coordinates : Easting

40850

76663

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

