SOVRINTENDENZA TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

Cultural Heritage

NICPMI Inv. No. 01127

Date of Publication 28 December 2012

Property Name Auberge de Castille et Leon

Address Misrah Kastilja

Town Name Valletta Toponym N/A Local Council Valletta

Property Owner Government Managing Body Office of the Prime Minister

Guardianship Deed

Type & Value

Period Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)

Phase Early Modern: Knights of St John (1530-1798)

Cultural Heritage

Architectural

Historical

Historical Property Value Very High
Assessment

Property Function Domestic Conservation Area UCA

Outline Description Palace: Knights' Period

Property Description

The present building was designed by Belli in 1741, and built in 1744 under the supervision the capomastro Domenico Cachia, which has replaced the older auberge designed and built by Girolamo Cassar in 1574. The facade of this two-storey palace consists of an ornate central portal flanked by freestanding columns and raised on a podium of stairs. The main facade is is subdivided into eleven bays, where superimposed pilasters define the central bays while plain panelling characterise the three outer bays. The windows are decorated with a plain frame having mouldings at the sill and lintel. The building is decorated with a continuous cornice, while the corners are enhanced by the use of rusticated masonry. The windows are set within recessed wall panels that are rusticated at ground level and plain at the upper level. The windows of the piano nobile are characterized by decorative mouldings. Approached by a flight of steps, the doorway is flanked by columns and surmounted by a bronze bust of GM Pinto and an impressive display of arms and armour. The cornice of the central window, outside the piano vestibule and the piano notabile, there is Pinto's coat of arms, while the centrepiece bears the coat of arms of Spain and Portugal.

Scheduled by MEPA Yes Degree of Protection Grade 1 G.N. No. 276 G.N. Date 2008

Cilia D & Ellul M, (1991), Legacy in Stone: the Architecture of the Knights in Malta, Malta: Miranda Publications.

Recommended Bibliography Unkown Author, One World - Protecting the most significant buildings, monuments and features of Valletta (92) Auberge de Castille and the courtyard fountain, Times of Malta, 10th November 2012. http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20081213/opinion/one-world-protecting-the-most-significant-





