SOVRINTENDENZA TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 01129

Date of Publication 28 December 2012

Property Name Auberge D'Italie

Address Triq il-Merkanti

Town Name Valletta Toponym N/A Local Council Valletta

Property Owner Government Managing Body Malta Tourism Authority

Guardianship Deed -

Type & Value

Period Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)

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

Cultural Heritage Architectural
Historical

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roperty Value Very High
Assessment

Property Function Domestic Conservation Area UCA

Outline Description Palace: Knights' Period

Property Description

This two-storey palace was originally designed by Girolamo Cassar; but has undergone numerous alterations. The palace is rectangular in plan, and rooms are built around a large courtyard. The facade is symmetrical and is characterized by six sets of windows on each floor. The windows at ground floor are rectangular, while those at the mezzanine level are small and square-shaped. The upper floor was probably added in the late 17th century by GM Caraffa, however, the the windows are aligned with those of the lower levels. Corners are heavily rusticated, and a cornice runs uninterruptedly along the whole palace which also distinguishes the ground and mezzanine floors from the upper level. Centrepiece above the central doorway is an effigy of GM Caraffa which consists of a marble inscription and a bronze bust of the Grand Master which is flanked by an impressive display of trophies. The courtyard is characterised by a triumphal arch, with a curved broken pediment. It consists of a pair of composite pillars, within which the arch is supported by a pair of Doric pilasters. The central feature of the pediment has an elaborate niche with the statue of St Catherine at the back, while the coat of arms of the GM at the front.

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

Unkown Author, One World - Protecting the most significant buildings, monuments and features of Valletta (91) Auberge d' Italie and triumphal arch, Times of Malta, 10^{th} November 2012 http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20090228/opinion/one-world-protecting-the-most-significant-

Recommended Bibliography Unknown Author, *The Auberge d' Italie*, www.mta.com, 13 November 2012. http://www.mta.com.mt/page.aspx?id=56



