



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 01132

Date of Publication 28 December 2012

Property Name	Castellania		
Address	No. 11 - 19, Triq il-Merkanti		
Town Name	Valletta	Toponym	N/A
Property Owner	Government	Managing Body	Ministry of Health
Local Council	Valletta		
Guardianship Deed	-		

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	Very High
Property Function	Social and Communal	Conservation Area	UCA

Outline Description	Knight's Law Court
Property Description	<p>Designed by Francesco Zerafa and completed by Giuseppe Bonnici. It began to be built in 1748 and was completed in 1760. The palazzo is planned around 3 sides of a small courtyard, and is two-storey high with a mezzanine floor. Apart from the offices and the court hall, there is also a chapel and prison cells. The facade is typically Baroque, having a symmetrical organised street elevation. It has retained most of its original external ornate architecture. The corners of the building are framed by clustered pilasters. The ground floor is characterized by eight shops, four on each side of the main entrance in Merchant Street. Over the shops is a row of eight square-shaped windows and a balcony which characterize the piano nobile. The centre-piece extends upwards to the full height of the facade. The arched main portal is embellished with the heraldic crescents of GM Pinto, also featured on the metopes between the tryglyphs of the Doric frieze that is supported by two pilasters that flank the doorway. Over this frieze is an iron-railed balcony beneath which there is a commemorating plaque. The doorway of this balcony is flanked by pilasters and surmounted by a segmented cornice; flanked by the allegorical figures of Justice and Truth. Between these figures there is an empty recess which may have held a bust of Pinto. Above the empty recess, there is a winged female and on its right a putto.</p>

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

Recommended Bibliography	<p>Buhagiar M, (2009), <i>Essays on the Knights, and Art and Architecture in Malta (1500-1798)</i>, Malta: Midsea Books.</p> <p>Cassar P, (1988), <i>The Castellania Palace: From Law Courts to Guardian of the Nation's Health</i>, Malta: GovPress.</p>
---------------------------------	---

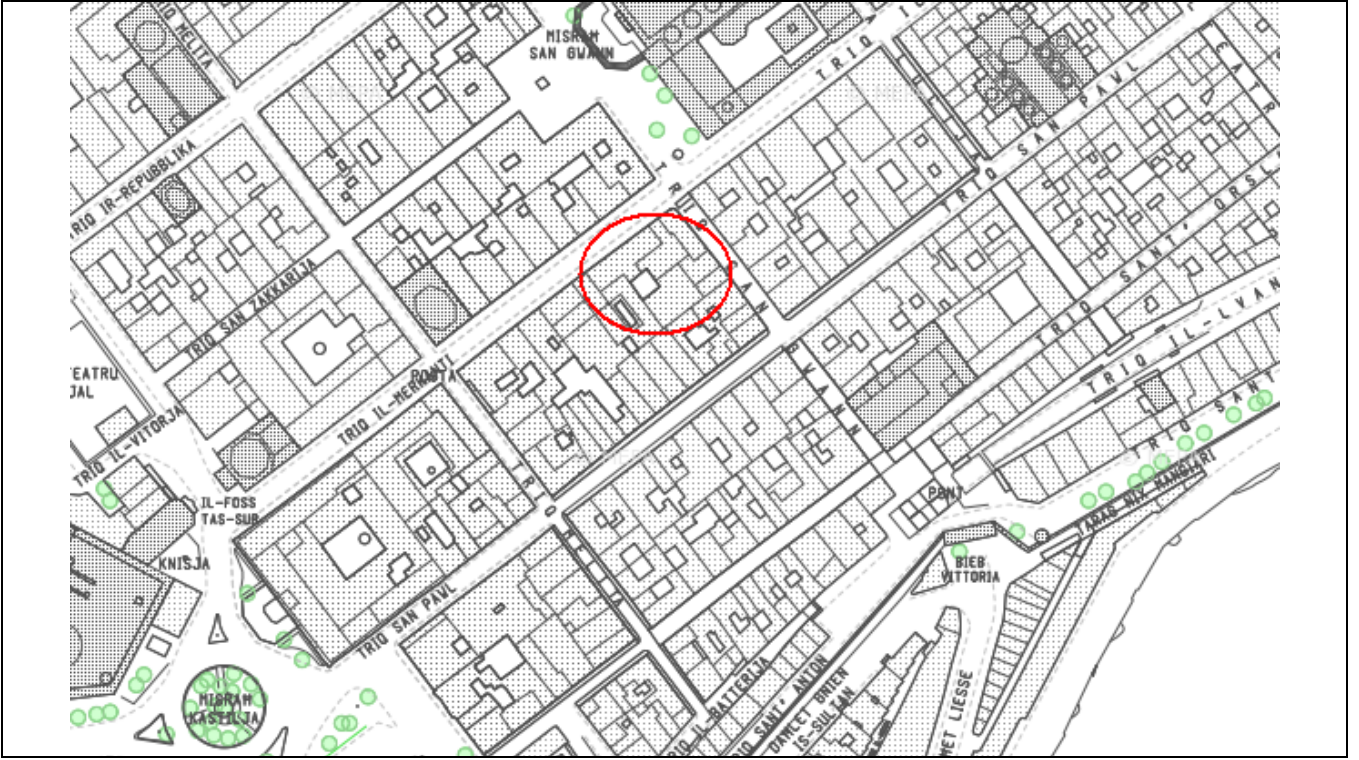
Coordinates : Easting

56063

72799

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

