SOVRINTENDENZA TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 01133

Date of Publication 28 December 2012

Property Name Musueum of Fine Arts

Address Triq Nofsinhar

Town Name Valletta Toponym N/A Local Council Valletta

Property Owner Government Managing Body Heritage Malta

Guardianship Deed -

Type & Value

Period Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)

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

Cultural Heritage Architectural

Architectural Cultural Heritage
Historical Property Value

Assessment

Very High

Property Function Domestic Conservation Area UCA

Outline Description Palace: Knights' Period

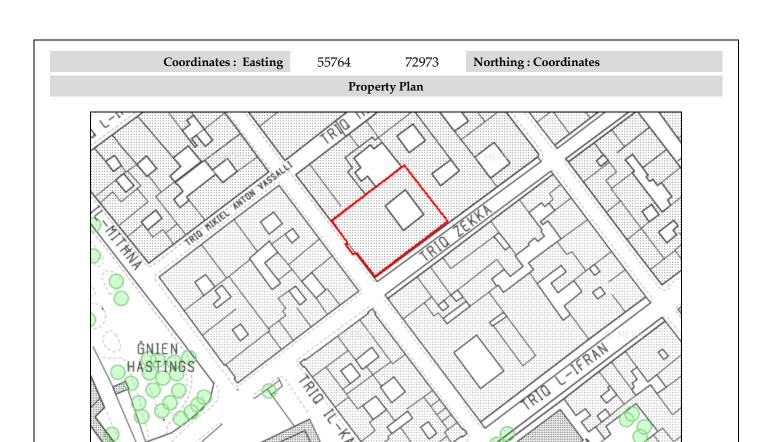
Property Description

The palace was built in 1570, and was one of the first buildings to be erected in Valletta. Originally, the palace consisted of two houses - a large house and a smaller one. In 1663 the property was passed onto the Order's Treasury, whereby it continued to serve as a residential building by various knights. The palazzo was restructured as presently-known in 1763 by Fra Raimondo de Sousa y Silva. It is considered to be an important example of the late baroque architecture in Malta, boasting one of the finest main staircases to be seen on the island. The palace is built in the Italiante architectural style having a central courtyard through which the surrounding halls get light and air. Some of the ground floor halls still have their ceiling decorated with late eighteenth century decorative schemes and display works ranging from the 18th century to modern times. Highlights include works by William Turner and Albert Bierstadt. In 1821 the building was leased to the British Navy as the residence of the Admiral, thus became known as the Admiralty House. The palace was restored and inaugurated as the Museum of Fine Arts in 1974.

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

Denaro, V (1963), Melita Historica: Journal of the Malta Historical Society. 3(1963)4(15-32): *Yet more Houses in Valletta*, Malta: Melita Historica.

Recommended Bibliography



Property Images

