SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 01135 **Date of Publication** 28 December 2012

Property Name Auberge de Provence

> Triq ir-Republika **Address**

Local Council Valletta **Town Name** Valletta Toponym N/A

Property Owner Government **Managing Body** Heritage Malta

Guardianship Deed

Period Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)

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

Architectural Cultural Heritage **Cultural Heritage** Historical Type & Value

Property Value Very High Assessment

Social and Communial **Property Function Conservation Area** UCA

Outline Description Palace: Knights' Period

Property Description

The two-storey auberge was built in the Mannerist style, in 1571 under the directions of Girolamo Cassar. The façade was remodelled in the mid-17th century, and is attributed to Mederico Blondel. The original façade had a small square in front of it; however, in the mid-17th century, a wing was added instead of the former square and the current façade was built along the alignment of the street. The facade has pronounced rusticated quoins incorporating alternating bands of protruding rounded and square stone sections. The ground floor level is characterized by the usual arched openings, which were used as botteghe, with mezzanine windows framed by scroll mouldings. The ground and upper floors are divided by heavy cornices, however, the ground floor is characterized by pairs of Doric pilasters, while the upper floor by Ionic pilasters. The chambers of this palazzo are roofed by diaphragm arches, quadripartite vaults, and wooden ceilings consisting of beams and polychromed gilded panelling. The Grand Salon is considered to be the gem of this building, with its richly painted walls and wooden beamed ceiling. Originally, the ceiling was executed by Nasoni, however, it has been badly restored and repainted that it is doubtful if any original elements remain.

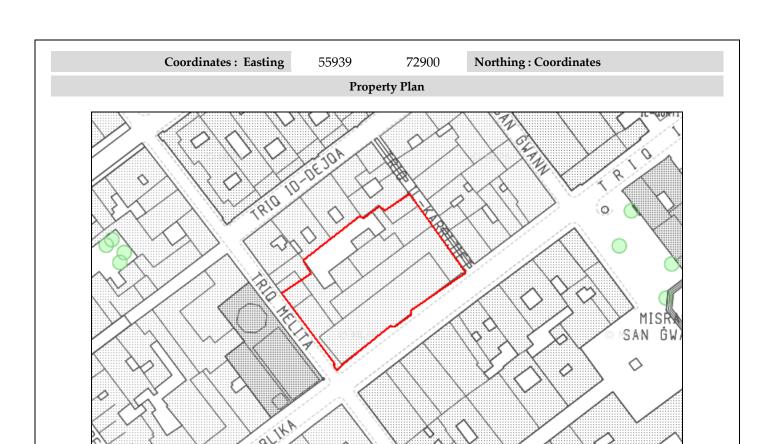
Scheduled by MEPA Yes **Degree of Protection** Grade 1 G.N. No. 276 G.N. Date 2008

> Buhagiar M, (2009), Essays on the Knights, and Art and Architecture in Malta (1500-1798), Malta: Midsea Books.

Recommended **Bibliography**

Unkown Author, One World - Protecting the most significant buildings, monuments and features of Valletta (54) Auberge de Provence, Times of Malta, 10th November 2012

http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20081209/opinion/one-world-protecting-the-most-significant-



Property Images

