SOVRINTENDENZA TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No.	1377
Date of Publication	28 June 2013

Property Name	St. Thomas Tower and Battery				
Address	Triq Dawret it-Torri				
Town Name	Marsakala	**Toponym**	-	**Local Council**	Marsakala
Property Owner	Government	**Managing Body**	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna		
Guardianship Deed	-				

Period	Modern (17th Century)		
Phase	Early Modern: Knights of St John (17th Century)		
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Historical Architectural	**Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment**	Outstanding
Property Function	Fortification	**Conservation Area**	

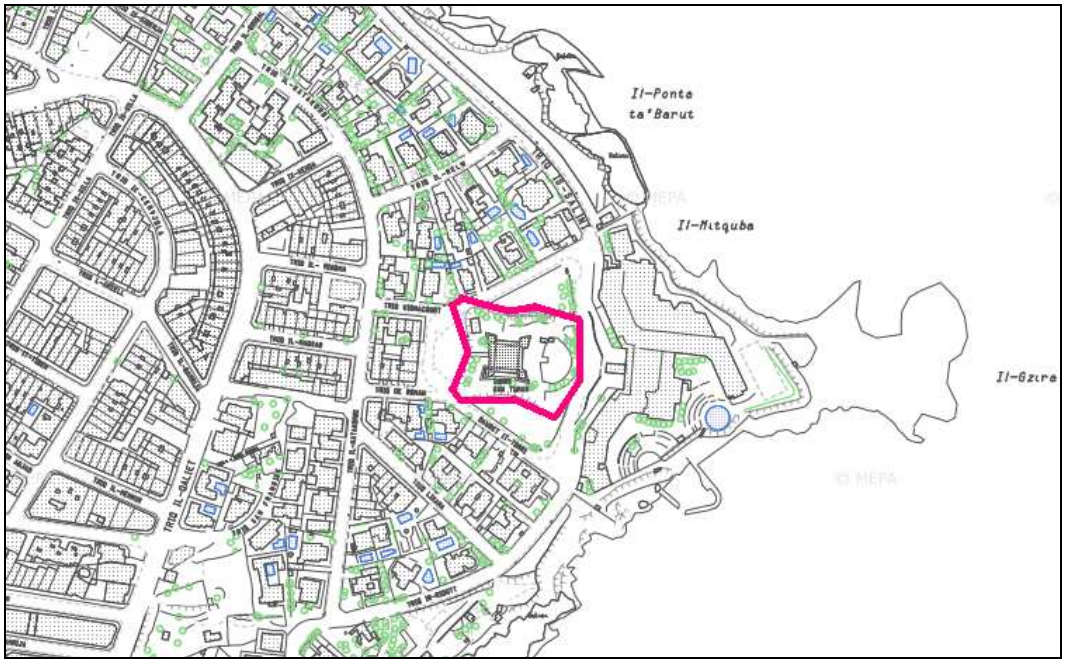
Outline Description	Coastal tower with external battery
Property Description	St Thomas Tower was one of the coastal fortifications built by Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt in the early seventeenth century and dates to 1614. The tower was erected on a headland separating Marsascala and St Thomas Bay after a Turkish razzia earlier that same year. The tower is designed in the form of 'fortino', that is, as a small fort-like structure strong enough to resist artillery bombardment and stable enough to mount and fire large cannon against enemy ships. With its four bastioned turrets, this tower was more than a simple lookout post - its massive structure was built to dominate the coastline, mounting batteries of heavy artillery on its roof and garrisoned by sizable detachments of troops in times of war. The tower was built to a square plan with four projecting corner turrets. Internally it consist of two adjoining casemates. Access to the tower was through a small gate opening on the ground floor which was served by a masonry flight of steps and a wooden drawbridge. The wooden lifting mechanism of this counterweighted drawbridge, known as a ponte levatoio à freccie e catena has survived, although the outer parts of the wooden arms were burnt. A shallow rock-hewn ditch surrounds the tower and its adjoining semi-circular coastal battery which was added to the tower in 1715/16. Various rooms seem to have been added to the tower during the early British period when it is known to have served to house prisoners of war. The semi-circular gun platform was restored and fitted with a rebuilt parapet and embrasures, designed on modern interpretative lines.

Scheduled by MEPA	Yes	**Degree of Protection**	Grade 1	**G.N. No.**	729	**G.N. Date**	1995

Recommended Bibliography	S.C. Spiteri, Fortresses of the Cross (Malta,1994), 483-4, 525 S.C.Spiteri, 'St Thomas Tower and Battery, Marsascala' in ARX Vol 8 (2011) , 48-59 Q. Hughes, Malta, a guide to the fortifications (Malta, 1985),215-70; Q. Hughes & K. Thake, Malta, The Baroque Island (Malta, 2003), 82

Coordinates : Easting	61461	68836	Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images







