

NICPMI Inv. No. 1496

Date of Publication 28 June 2013

Property Name	Senglea			
Address	Senglea			
Town Name	Senglea	Toponym	Local Council	Senglea
Property Owner	Government	Managing Body		
Guardianship Deed				

Period	Modern (16th Century)			
Phase	Early Modern: Knights of St John (16th Century)			
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Historical Architectural	Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment	Outstanding	
Property Function	Fortification	Conservation Area	UCA (Senglea)	

Outline Description	Bastioned fortified city
Property Description	<p>The fortified town of Senglea developed from a small fort first erected on site in 1552 in response to a swift Turkish raid on the island which had caught the knights unprepared and exposed the vulnerability of their town of Birgu to attack from the flanks. Fort St. Michael, as the small stronghold was called, was eventually incorporated as the cavalier of a new bastioned enceinte designed to envelope the whole Isola peninsula and transform it into a second fortified town during the brief reign of Grand Master Claude de la Sengle. Its initial design is attributed to the Italian engineer Nicolò Bellavanti. After the Great Siege, Francesco Laparelli recommended that it should be razed to the ground. Although his proposal was then ignored, the defences of Senglea were only brought to a reasonable state of defence by 1581. Thereafter little was done to maintain and improve these fortifications. Various outworks were eventually added to the land front defences throughout the course of the 17th and 18th centuries but the fortress had by then lost its front line military significance as it was enclosed within a vast outer enceinte of fortifications known as the Sta Margherita and Cottonera lines. The fortifications of Senglea were heavily mutilated during the course of the latter half of the nineteenth century when a large part of the western part of the enceinte facing Corradino was demolished and rebuilt to make way for the construction of a new dockyard by the British military, losing two bastions and a counterguard in the process. The early decades of the twentieth century also saw significant mutilations to the land front and cavalier and the fortifications suffered from extensive bombing during WWII, some scars of which are still visible.</p>

Scheduled by MEPA	Yes	Degree of Protection	Grade 1	G.N. No.	133	G.N. Date	2001
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Recommended Bibliography	<p>S.C. Spiteri, Fortresses of the Knights (Malta, 2001), 262-7; The Great Siege, mdlxv (Malta, 2005), 218-35</p> <p>Hoppen, The Fortification of Malta by the Order of St John 1530-1798 (2nd Edition, Malta, 1999), 37, 40-1, 43, 44, 45, 51-2, 69, 79, 82, 89, 113, 117-22, 125-9, 133, 134, 143, 145, 146, 148, 227</p> <p>Q. Hughes, Malta, a guide to the fortifications (Malta, 1985), 218-23</p>
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Coordinates : Easting

56461

71807

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

