



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 1572

Date of Publication 28 June 2013

Property Name	Valletta		
Address	Valletta		
Town Name	Valletta	Toponym	-
Property Owner	Government	Managing Body	Various
Guardianship Deed	-		
Local Council	Valletta		

Period	Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)		
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 (Valletta) / AHLV

Outline Description	Bastioned fortified city
Property Description	Valletta, was built after the Great Siege of 1565 and named after its founder Jean de Valette, Grand Master of the Order of St John. The fortress is a fortified city which served as the main political, military and religious headquarters of the Order of St John. It was designed by the papal engineer Francesco Laparelli and incorporated most of the ingredients of the Italian bastioned system of fortification. Stretched out over the Sciberras peninsula, its strongest defences were laid out across the highest part of the promontory and comprised four strong bastions, two cavaliers and a deep rock-hewn ditch. The new city within the fortified enclosure was built to a grid pattern with a systematic distribution and division of streets, piazza, and pomerium. Laparelli's design also incorporated an arsenal and a manderaggio, both of which, however, were never built. The design of the fortress of Valletta remained practically unchanged from the manner it was designed by Laparelli. The only alterations which were undertaken in the course of the 17th and 18th centuries were mainly designed to provide the fortified city with sorely lacking outworks in the form of four large counterscarps built along the land front, and later a covertway and glacis; the enclosure of the northern tip of the peninsula, including Fort St Elmo, within the Caraffa enceinte which was designed by the Flemish military engineer Don Carlos de Grunenburg and materialized in the course of the late 1680s. British alterations to the fortified enceinte were minimal and were largely constrained to the installation of a number of retired batteries, concrete gun emplacements, the lowering of parapets and closure of embrasures, the construction of magazines and the replacement of two of the gateways.

Scheduled by MEPA	Yes	Degree of Protection	Grade 1	G.N. No.	133	G.N. Date	2001
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Recommended Bibliography	S.C. Spiteri, Fortresses of the Knights (Malta, 2001), 268-80 A. Hoppen, The Fortification of Malta by the Order of St John 1530-1798 (2nd Edition, Malta, 1999), 33, 49-77, 80, 82-100, 105, 108, 111-14, 119, 120, 122, 124, 127, 136, 146-8, 154, 156, 159, 173, 227, 228, 242, 246, 251, 256-9, 26 Q. Hughes, Malta, a guide to the fortifications (Malta, 1985) 246-68: Q. Hughes & K. Thake, Malta, The Baroque Island (Malta, 2003), 57-9: Roger de Giorgio, A City by an Order (Malta 1985), passim
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Coordinates : Easting

56123

72994

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

