SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

NICPMI Inv. No.	1459
Date of Publication	28 June 2013

Property Name	Main Gate – Mdina
Address	Mdina
Town Name	Mdina
Property Owner	Government
Guardianship Deed	-

Toponym	-
Managing Body	Mdina Local Council

Local Council	Mdina

Period	Modern (18th Century)
Phase	Early Modern: Knights of St John (18th Century)
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Historical Architectural
Property Function	Fortification

Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment	Outstanding
Conservation Area	UCA

Outline Description	Gateway
Property Description	The Main Gate into Mdina is a large Baroque portal with superstructure which served as a corpo di guardia. The gate was built by the French Military engineer Charles Francois de Mondion and is elaborately decorated with rusticated double pilasters, trophies-of-arms and inscriptions. It was also served by a wooden drawbridge of the counterweight type which rotated on itself and was known locally as à la Vauban (i.e., in the French style). This type of drawbridge consisted of a simple, counterbalanced platform, pivoted roughly in the middle, which when pulled up swung downwards inside the gateway's passage and into an underground chamber, the so-called 'cantina del ponte levatoio'. The underground chamber still exists as does the sally-port which opened beneath the gateway. The gate was approached via an arched bridge decorated with lion effigies holding escutcheons with the coat o f arms of Grand Master Vilhena. The original medieval gateway, which Mondion's gate replaced, is situated to the right of the entrance, and is walled up.

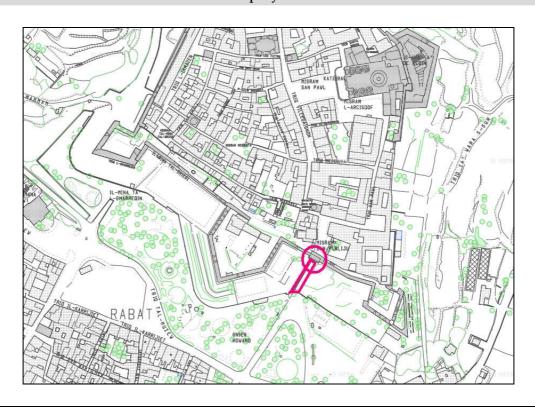|						
Scheduled by MEPA	Yes	**Degree of Protection**	Grade 1	**G.N. No.** 348	**G.N. Date**	2001

Recommended Bibliography	S.C. Spiteri, Fortresses of the Knights (Malta,2001), 229-36
	Q. Hughes & K. Thake, Malta, The Baroque Island (Malta, 2003), 156

Coordinates : Easting	46210	71527	Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan

Property Images