## SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

## $N_{ m ational}$ $I_{ m nventory}$ of the $C_{ m ultural}$ $P_{ m roperty}$ of the $M_{ m altese}$ $I_{ m slands}$

NICPMI Inv. No. 1524 28 June 2013 **Date of Publication** 

Address St John Bastion, Birgu

Local Council Birgu **Town Name** Birgu **Toponym** 

**Property Owner** Government **Managing Body** 

Guardianship Deed

Period Modern (18th Century)

Phase Early Modern: Knights of St John (18th Century)

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

**Property Value** Outstanding Assessment

Fortification **Property Function** Conservation Area UCA (Birgu)

Outline Description Main gateway

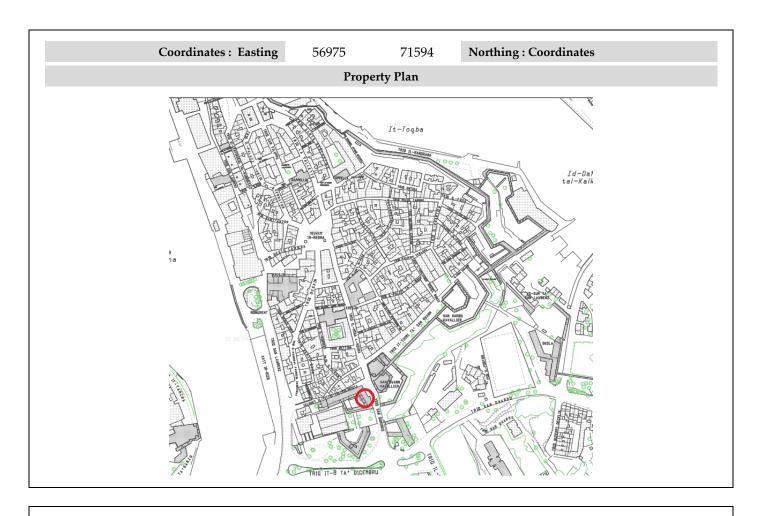
**Property Description** 

Also known as the Porta Superiore. This is a Baroque portal forming the third and last of three gateways leading into the fortress of Birgu, built in the early decades of the eighteenth century as part of the overall rehauling of Birgu's fortifications. The gate is set in the right inner flank of the bastion and originally had a large drop-ditch cut out in front of it (now filled in). This gate was fitted with a 'a' la Vauban' wooden drawbridge, the inner half of which retracted (when in the lifted position) into a basement (cantina) just inside the passage way (now covered over). A marble inscription is affixed to the facade and a corpo di guardia is built into the passageway.

Scheduled by MEPA G.N. Date 2001 Degree of Protection Grade 1 G.N. No. 133

S.C. Spiteri, Fortresses of the Knights (Malta, 2001), 244-51

Recommended **Bibliography** 



## **Property Images**





