



SOVRINTENDENZA  
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI  
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

# National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00003

Date of Publication 16 December 2011

<b>Property Name</b>	Ċittadella		
<b>Address</b>	N/A		
<b>Town Name</b>	Rabat	<b>Toponym</b>	N/A
<b>Property Owner</b>	Various	<b>Managing Body</b>	Various owners
<b>Guardianship Deed</b>	No		
<b>Local Council</b>	Rabat (Ġhawdex)		

<b>Period</b>	Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)		
<b>Phase</b>	Early Modern: Knights of St John (1530-1798)		
<b>Cultural Heritage Type &amp; Value</b>	Architectural Historical	<b>Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment</b>	Very High
<b>Property Function</b>	Defence	<b>Conservation Area</b>	UCA

<b>Outline Description</b>	The Citadella is a historic fortified city or castle since the Bronze Age.
<b>Property Description</b>	<p>The Gran Castello is situated on a promontory over the town of Rabat. This vantage location was chosen because it was a naturally fortified hill which dominated the surrounding country side and provided visual control of the coastal areas. Archaeological records suggest that this site was first inhabited during the Bronze Age. This settlement was later developed by the Phoenicians and grew so as to become the administrative centre during Roman times.</p> <p>Throughout the Medieval period, the Ċittadella proved too small for the growing population and a suburb developed beneath its walls. Following the Ottoman invasion of 1551, the Ċittadella was repaired but lack of funds held its modernization. The fortification as seen today was transformed during the Knights period. In late 16th Century, architects Rinaldini and Cassar proposed plans for its renovation. A new demi-bastion, curtains, terre plains, enceintes and ravelins were built. The main land front with its central bastions was completed before 1610, followed by St. John and St. Martin Cavalier in 1614 and 1622 respectively.</p> <p>Although it is made up almost of military structures, within its precincts the Gran Castello hosts the Cathedral church, several medieval houses, and chapels, the law courts, the old Bishop's Palace and several other baroque styled structures some of which have been transformed into museums.</p>

<b>Scheduled by MEPA</b>	Yes	<b>Degree of Protection</b>	Grade 1	<b>G.N. No.</b>	0427	<b>G.N. Date</b>	1995
--------------------------	-----	-----------------------------	---------	-----------------	------	------------------	------

<b>Recommended Bibliography</b>	<p>1905/06: 3, 1905/06: 3, 1933/34: XII, 1935/36: XIV, 1960: 11, 1967: 8, 1968: 8, 1969: 6, 1980: 62, 1980: 62, 1984: 63, 1984: 63, 1985: 68, 1990: 103, 105 <i>Museum Annual Report</i> (M.A.R.), Museums Department</p> <p>MEPA Scheduled Property Register</p> <p>Spiteri, S.C. (2001) <i>Fortress of the Knights</i>, Malta: Book Distribution Ltd</p>
---------------------------------	--

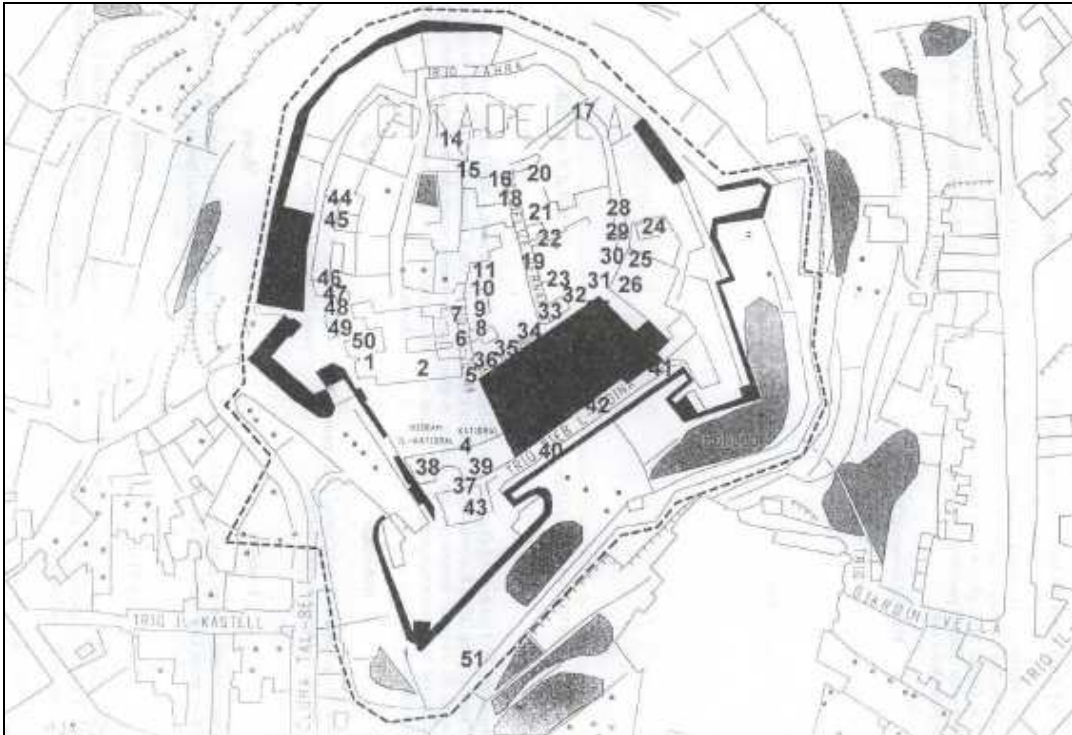
Coordinates : Easting

31549

89586

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

