



SOVRINTENDENZA  
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI  
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

# National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00683

Date of Publication 27 August 2012

|                          |   |                      |                    |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Property Name</b>     | Collegiate Parish Church of the Nativity of the Madonna |                      |                    |
| <b>Address</b>           | Misrah il-Papa Benedittu XV                             |                      |                    |
| <b>Town Name</b>         | Isla  | <b>Toponym</b>       | Madonna of Victory |
| <b>Property Owner</b>    | Religious   | <b>Managing Body</b> | -                  |
| <b>Guardianship Deed</b> | -   |                      |                    |
| <b>Local Council</b>     | Isla  |                      |                    |

|   |   |  |           |
|---|---|--|-----------|
| <b>Period</b>                             | Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)        |  |           |
| <b>Phase</b>                              | Modern: British (1800 - 1964)           |  |           |
| <b>Cultural Heritage Type &amp; Value</b> | Architectural<br>Artistic<br>Historical | <b>Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment</b> | Very High |
| <b>Property Function</b>                  | Religious                               | <b>Conservation Area</b>                           | -         |

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|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Outline Description</b>  | In 1581 Senglea built a church dedicated to the Nativity of the Madonna as a monument to the Christian Victory over Islam in 1565. The Basilica was completely demolished during World War II and reconstructed in the 1950's.   |
| <b>Property Description</b> | The Basilica was completely demolished during World War II and reconstructed in the 1950's. By 1954 the façade was nearly ready and a statue of the Madonna was to be put up on this monument. During the Marian Year held in 1954, Pope Pius XII introduced a liturgical feast dedicated to Our Lady Queen of Heaven. It was decided that on top of the pediment which had just been erected a statue of Our Lady Queen of Heaven would be set up. The statue was paid for by two benefactors, Fr Paul Cauchi and his sister Elena and which was made on the design made by Envin Cremona and Vincenzo Bonello was in charge to bring the statue over to Malta from abroad. This statue is about 13 feet (approximately 4 metres) long and it arrived in Malta in mid December 1955 and was blessed on the church parvis on the 29th January 1956. After a speech by Fr Frangisk Abela, the Procurator of the Basilica, the master mason Guzeppi Sammut, who was in charge of the building works started hoisting up the statue. It was consecrated anew by Archbishop Michael Gonzi on the 24th August 1957. |

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|--------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|------|------------------|------|
| <b>Scheduled by MEPA</b> | Yes | <b>Degree of Protection</b> | Grade 1 | <b>G.N. No.</b> | 0782 | <b>G.N. Date</b> | 2011 |
|--------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|------|------------------|------|

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|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Recommended Bibliography</b> | Anon., <i>Basilica of Our Lady of Victory</i> , Cottonera Today accessed 17 August 2012 < <a href="http://www.discovermalta.org/cottonera/pages/gb/p10cottoneratoday.asp?m=180#menu">http://www.discovermalta.org/cottonera/pages/gb/p10cottoneratoday.asp?m=180#menu</a> ><br>Scerri, John N., <i>Isla</i> , Malta-Canada.com accessed 17 August 2012 < <a href="http://www.malta-canada.com/churches-chapels/Isla.htm">http://www.malta-canada.com/churches-chapels/Isla.htm</a> ><br>Magion, F. (2010) <i>Holy Images found in the Streets of Senglea: Parrocchia ta' l-Isla: Parrocchia ta' l-Isla</i> |
|---------------------------------|--|

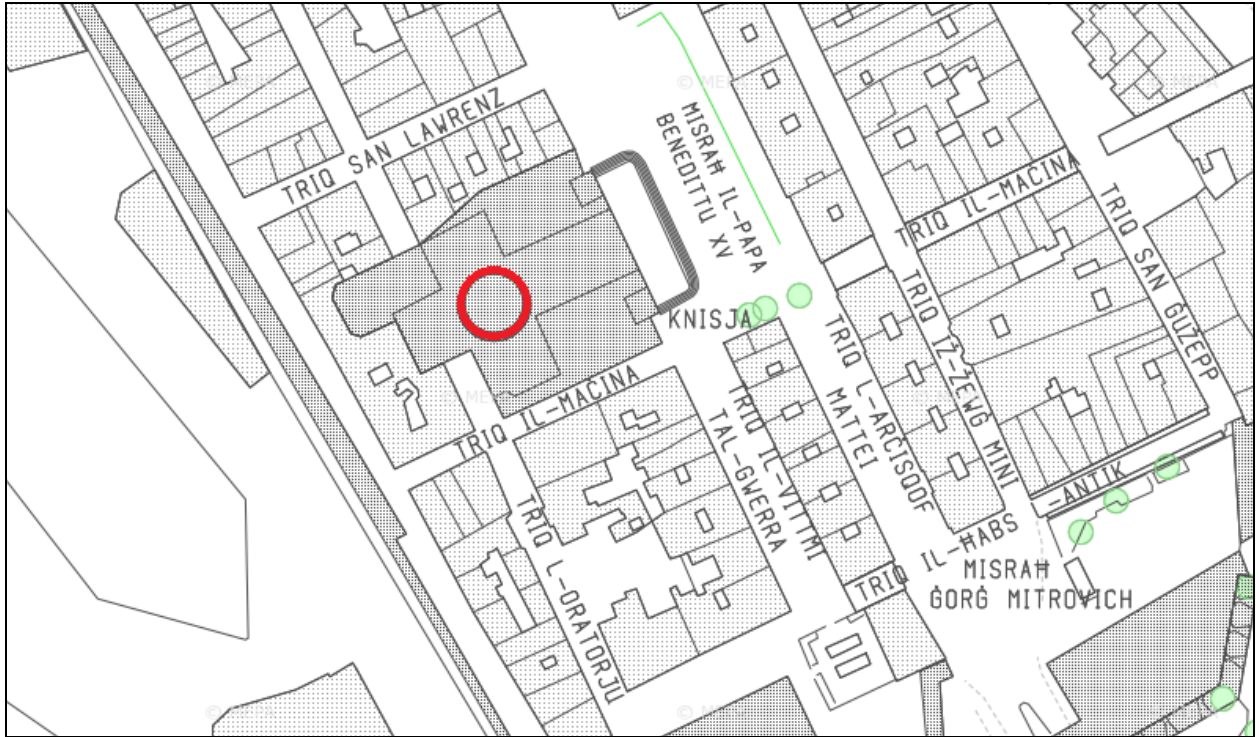
Coordinates : Easting

56547

71567

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

