## SOVRINTENDENZA TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

## National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00982

Date of Publication 27 August 2012

**Property Name** Parish Church of the Visitation of Our Lady

Address Pjazza Zjara tal- Madonna

Town Name Gharb Toponym - Local Council Gharb

Property Owner Religious Managing Body Archidioceses

Guardianship Deed No

**Period** Medieval (6th to 16th Century AD)

Phase Early Modern: Knights of St John (1530-1798)

Cultural Heritage Architectural

Architectural Cultural Heritage
Social Property Value High

Type & Value Historical Assessment

Property Function Religious Conservation Area No

Outline Description

When Gharb was declared a parish, its inhabitants planned to build a new Church. In 1698, the villagers sent a petition to Grandmaster Perellos requesting some land in the icentre of the village where they could build their new church. The architect Joseph Azzopardi from Vittoriosa, Malta designed the plan

**Property Description** 

A builder from Gharb, Dionisius Carnemolla commenced building works and he used to encourage everyone to give a helping hand. Construction works continued uninterrupted for fifteen years until the master builder died and then works stopped for around ten years. Building works recommenced in April 1717

Gharb Parish church is the second parish (after Xewkija) to be established outside the town of Rabat. The church is designed on Francesco Borromini's, Sant'Agnese in Agone at Piazza Navone, Rome.

The façade of this church has a concave form. Here, there is complex architectural decorative scheme. The pillars on the first level are raised on a plinth with a Corinthian capital. The main portal has moulded surroundings together with angels holding a garland of flowers and capped with a triangular pediment nestled between a segmental pediment. On the pediments there is the female figure of the Eucharistic holding the Cross. Inside an equally decorated niche, there are the figures of Charity and of Faith.

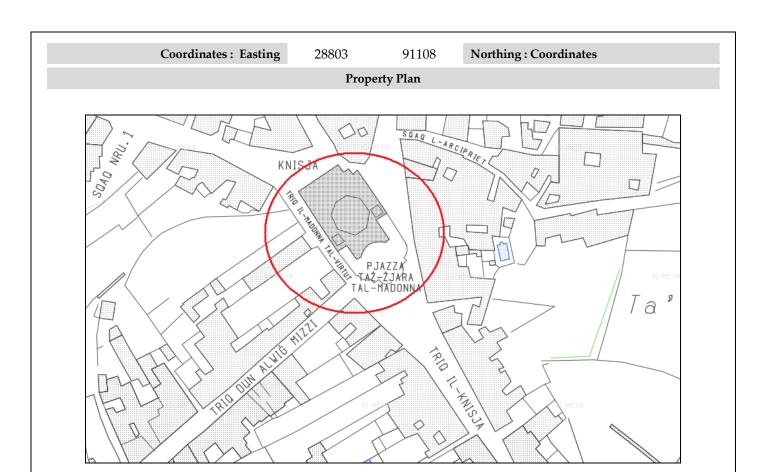
In the second tier, there is a large window. Running along the entire façade, there is a wide entablature and a large volute with articulates the second with the third tier. Here there are broken aedicules and the Basilica Colligate Cross.

Flanking the concave façade there are two bell towers, one with a clock and the other with an inscription "Ibni Ghozz iz-zmien". This inscriptions commemorates the time when the building was stalled because of financial reasons.

Scheduled by MEPA No Degree of Protection Grade 1 G.N. No. 782 G.N. Date 2011

Apap Agius, D., (2002), Gharb Thoughout the Ages, Malta: A & M Printing

Recommended Bibliography



## **Property Images**

