



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

<b>Property Name</b>	Parish Church of the Visitation of Our Lady				
<b>Address</b>	Pjazza Zjara tal- Madonna				
<b>Town Name</b>	Gharb	<b>Toponym</b>	-	<b>Local Council</b>	Gharb
<b>Property Owner</b>	Religious	<b>Managing Body</b>	Archidioceses		
<b>Guardianship Deed</b>	No				

<b>Period</b>	Medieval (6th to 16th Century AD)				
<b>Phase</b>	Early Modern: Knights of St John (1530-1798)				
<b>Cultural Heritage Type &amp; Value</b>	Architectural	<b>Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment</b>	High		
	Social				
	Historical				
<b>Property Function</b>	Religious	<b>Conservation Area</b>	No		

<b>Outline Description</b>	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 centre of the village where they could build their new church. The architect Joseph Azzopardi from Vittoriosa, Malta designed the plan.				
<b>Property Description</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				

<b>Scheduled by MEPA</b>	No	<b>Degree of Protection</b>	Grade 1	<b>G.N. No.</b>	782	<b>G.N. Date</b>	2011
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<b>Recommended Bibliography</b>	Apap Agius, D., (2002), <i>Gharb Throughout the Ages, Malta</i> : A & M Printing				
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Coordinates : Easting

28803

91108

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

