SOVRINTENDENZA TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 01152

Date of Publication 28 December 2012

Property Name San Antonio Palace and Gardens

Address Triq Sant Anton

Town Name Attard Toponym N/A Local Council Attard

Property Owner Government Managing Body President of Malta

Guardianship Deed -

Type & Value

Period Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)

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

Cultural Heritage Architectural

Architectural Cultural Heritage
Historical Property Value

Assessment

Very High

Property Function Domestic Conservation Area

Outline Description Palace: Knights' Period and Gardens

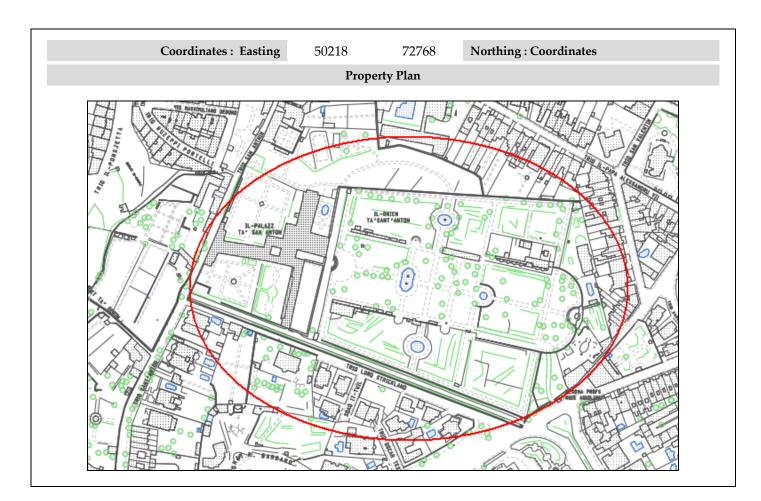
Property Description

Originally built in c1600 as a country villa for the then Knight Antoine de Paule built solely for the his leisure. The building was enlarged and turned into a palazzo once de Paule was elected Grand Master of the Order as this was closer to Valletta then Verdala Palace, between 1623-36. Under de Paule, the palazzo was highly decorated with the works by Nasoni. Except for the tower, the palace is built on two floors. The palace continued to be used by subsequent Grand Masters, and later on British governors, and thus the original building has undergone numerous structural changes to accommodate the needs of its occupants. During the Grand Masters reing, the palazzo changed from a T-shaped building into a Latin cross. The balustrated walk round the main courtyard was added during the British period. The gardens that surround the palace were opened to the public in 1882; these are well planned and embellished by walkways, ornamental ponds, fountains, and an aviary. The palace is also adorned with a small chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Pilar which built by de Paule. Its vault is decorated with the coats-of-arms of GMs de Vilhena, Pinto and de Rohan. It consists of a rectangular barrel-vaulted nave with arched ribs which divide the ceiling into six bays. The altar is set in a deep chancel separated from the nave by two pilasters which carry the last arched rib of the vault.

Scheduled by MEPA Yes Degree of Protection Grade 1 G.N. No. 1082 G.N. Date 2009

Buhagiar M, (2009), Essays on the Knights, and Art and Architecture in Malta (1500-1798), Malta: Midsea Books.

Recommended Bibliography Unkown Author, The Presidential Palace: San Anton, president.gov.mt, 12 November 2012 http://president.gov.mt/san_anton_palace?l=1



Property Images

