



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 01141

Date of Publication 28 December 2012

Property Name	Bibliotheca		
Address	Republic Street		
Town Name	Valletta	Toponym	N/A
Property Owner	Government	Local Council	Valletta
Guardianship Deed	-		
	Managing Body	Malta Public Libraries, University of Malta	

Period	Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)		
Phase	Early Modern: Knights of St John (1530-1798)		
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Architectural Historical	Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment	Very High
Property Function	Social and Communal	Conservation Area	UCA

Outline Description	Public Library
Property Description	<p>Set up through the munificence of the Knight de Tencin who donated his book collection in 1763. Designed by Stefano Ittar in 1786 in the Neo-Classical style, and is the last important building to be built by the Knights. The symmetrical façade is characterized by having the Doric order in the ground floor level and the Ionic in the piano notabile. The first floor is supported by a vaulted loggia. The façade of the first floor level is characterized by a two pairs of rectangular windows on each side of the balcony, and 2 sets of oval windows above them. Above the central doorway is a balustraded balcony supported by a pair of double Doric columns, which are in turn paired by 2 pairs of Ionic columns which frame the entrance to the balcony, above which there is a triangular pediment at parapet level. A cornice runs around the whole building below the balustraded parapet. A grand entrance vestibule leads to a spacious flight of stairs that leads to the main hall. The motifs in the ceiling of the loggia and the stucco-line decoration in the entrance hall and staircase were innovative and far removed from the Baroque style.</p>

Scheduled by MEPA	Yes	Degree of Protection	Grade 1	G.N. No.	276	G.N. Date	2008
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Recommended Bibliography	<p>Buhagiar M, (2009), <i>Essays on the Knights, and Art and Architecture in Malta (1500-1798)</i>, Malta: Midsea Books.</p> <p>Unkown Author, <i>One World - Protecting the most significant buildings, monuments and features of Valletta (38) The Biblioteca</i>, Times of Malta, 10th November 2012 http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20080816/opinion/protecting-the-most-significant-buildings-</p>
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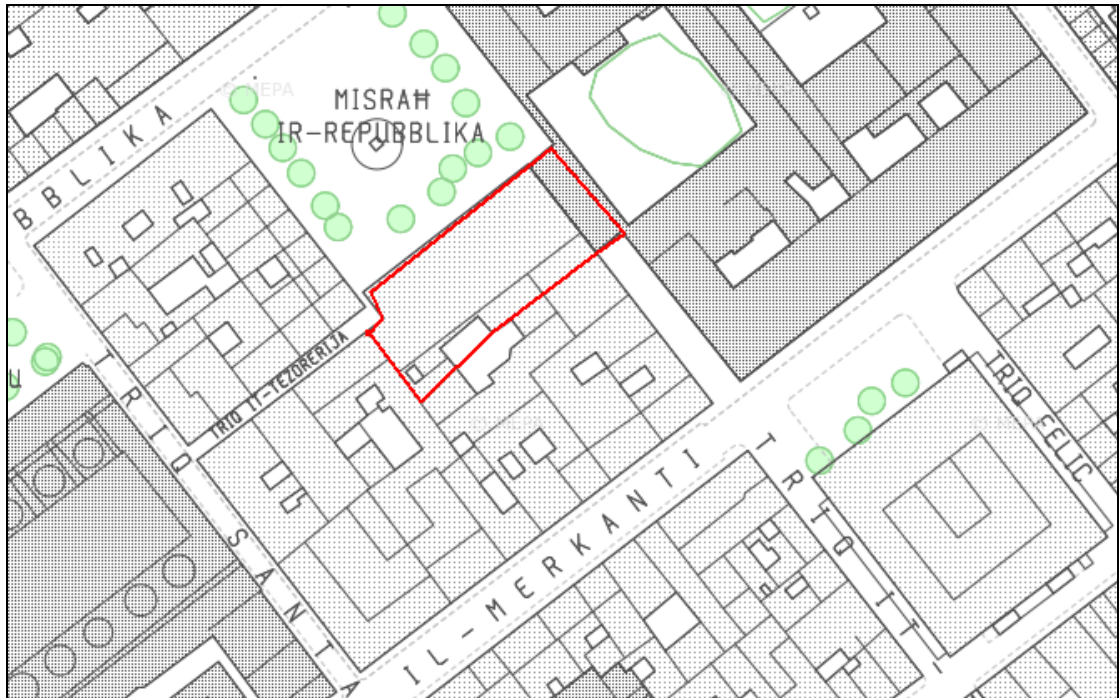
Coordinates : Easting

56159

72965

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

