



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00004

Date of Publication 16 December 2011

Property Name	L-Għajn il-Kbira				
Address	Pjazza l-Għejjun				
Town Name	Fontana	Toponym	Triq tal-Għajn	Local Council	Fontana
Property Owner	Government	Managing Body	Government Property Department		
Guardianship Deed	No				

Period	Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)				
Phase	Early Modern: Knights of St John (1530-1798)				
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Architectural	Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment	High		
	Social	Conservation Area	N/A		
Property Function	Domestic				

Outline Description	A 17th Century wash-house.
Property Description	<p>The wash-house was constructed around 1685 by the priest Gasparre Azzopardi, who was in possession of the Tas-Saqqaja benefice and the spring. However some form of arched shelter may have been in existence since the late fourteenth century. This is inferred from a document of 1373 and is partly confirmed by the works carried out in summer of 1597. When running water was unheard of, people from Rabat flocked there for their water supply as well as to wash their clothes. The shelter was very convenient as it shielded the people from the hot sun in summer and from the cold north easterly wind in winter. On the occasion of the building of the wash-house and the channelling of water into stone troughs, three coats of arms were sculpted inside. The middle belongs to Grand Master Gregorio Caraffa (1680–1690); that on its left is of the Azzopardi family, while that on the right is of the Universitas that was responsible for the expenses of its upkeep. The inscription on coralline limestone commemorates the erection of this same wash-house.</p>

Scheduled by MEPA	Yes	Degree of Protection	Grade 1	G.N. No.	0856	G.N. Date	2000
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Recommended Bibliography	<p>Bezzina, J. (2005) <i>About Fontana</i>, [Online], Available: http://www.fontana.gov.mt/about_fontana07_en.asp [01 Dec 2011].</p>
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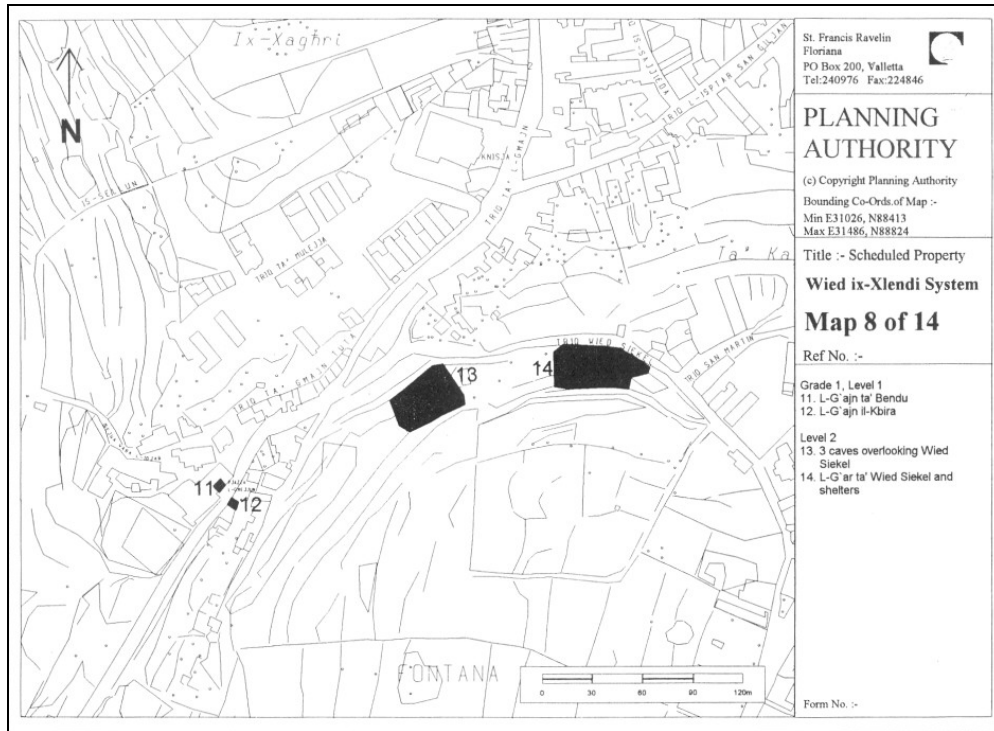
Coordinates : Easting

31153

88536

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

