



SOVRINTENDENZA  
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI  
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

# National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00015

Date of Publication 16 December 2011

<b>Property Name</b>	Skorba Temples		
<b>Address</b>	Triq Sant' Anna		
<b>Town Name</b>	<b>Toponym</b>	<b>Local Council</b>	
	Żebbiegħ	L-iskorba	Mġarr
<b>Property Owner</b>	Government	<b>Managing Body</b>	Heritage Malta
<b>Guardianship Deed</b>	No		

<b>Period</b>	Prehistory (6th Millenium - 9th Century BC)		
<b>Phase</b>	Neolithic (5000 - 4100 BC)		
<b>Cultural Heritage Type &amp; Value</b>	Archaeological Architectural	<b>Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment</b>	Very High
<b>Property Function</b>	Ritual	<b>Conservation Area</b>	AAI

<b>Outline Description</b>	At Skorba in Mġarr an early trefoil temple and a late Temple Period four-apse temple are found. Skorba dates to the Ġgantija and Tarxien phases. Domestic and ritual spaces pertaining to pre-Temple times were also found. Today, Haġrat is inscribed on the World Heritage List.
<b>Property Description</b>	Skorba megalithic temples located at <i>Liskolba</i> are found to the west of the road from Mġarr to Ghajn Tuffieħa. Skorba lies on the Bidnija Ridge at an altitude of 375 feet above sea level and looks to the south across a wide valley towards the Binġemma heights. In 1914, a megalith covered in mound of soil, stones and ceramics was found. The first excavations occurred in 1914 and 1938. An intensive campaign was undertaken by Trump in 1961. Skorba two temples, the West and East were both built in coralline limestone. The West Temple built in a trefoil plan dates to the Ġgantija phase. The entrance is through a paved passage pierced by five libation holes. A central torba-paved court surrounded by three apses characterises the internal layout. The central apse was walled off and four altars added, probably in Tarxien phase. During Tarxien phase, the eastern wall of the West Temple was pulled down to erect the East Temple. The latter is accessible through a paved passage. A four apse with an irregular central niche at the back characterises the interior. Remains of domestic structures and deposits from Għar Dalam to Ġgantija phases were uncovered under the West Temple. Another space, the Red Skorba Shrine associated with ritual was found. Alterations at Skorba indicate the use of the temples also in the Tarxien Cemetery phase. In 1980, Skorba was inscribed on the World Heritage List as the most significant temple remains which shed light on the development of temple tradition in Malta.

<b>Scheduled by MEPA</b>	Yes	<b>Degree of Protection</b>	Class A	<b>G.N. No.</b>	0764	<b>G.N. Date</b>	1998
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<b>Recommended Bibliography</b>	1914/1915: II, 1937/1938: II, 1961: 1-4 Fig. 1-2 Plates I-IV, 1962: 3-5 Fig 1-3 Plates 1-3, 1963: 2-3 Appendix page 5 Fig 1 Plate 1. <i>Museum Annual Report</i> (M.A.R.), Museums Department Evans, J.D. 1971. <i>The Prehistoric Antiquities of the Maltese Islands: A Survey</i> , The Athlone Press, London: 29-35 Trump, D. 1966, <i>Skorba - Excavations carried out on behalf of the National Museum of Malta</i> , 1962-4, Research Report of the Society of Antiquaries of London, London
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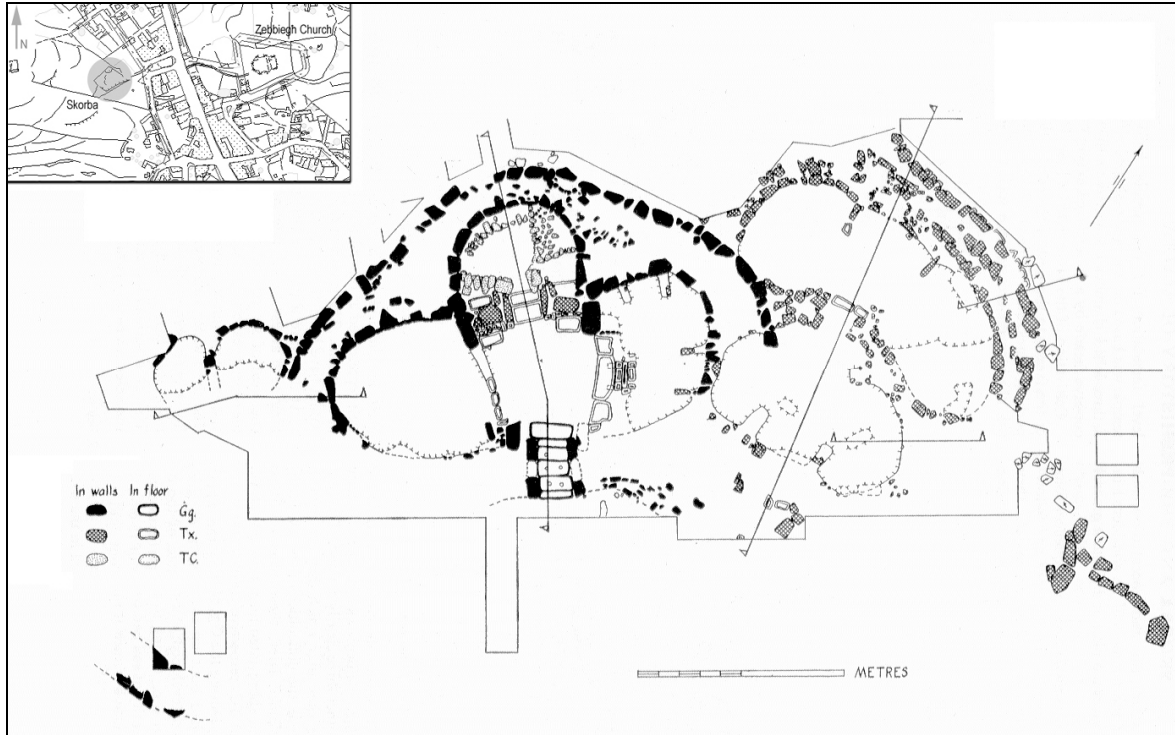
Coordinates : Easting

43922

75547

Northing : Coordinates

### Property Plan



### Property Images

