



SOVRINTENDENZA  
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI  
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

# National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 0003

Date of Publication 16 December 2011

Updated Version 28 June 2013

<b>Property Name</b>	Cittadella		
<b>Address</b>	Victoria, Gozo		
<b>Town Name</b>	Victoria	<b>Toponym</b>	Ic-Cittadella
<b>Property Owner</b>	Government	<b>Local Council</b>	Victoria
<b>Guardianship Deed</b>	-		
	<b>Managing Body</b>	-	

<b>Period</b>	Medieval to Modern (18th century)		
<b>Phase</b>	Late Medieval		
<b>Cultural Heritage Type &amp; Value</b>	Historical Architectural	<b>Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment</b>	Outstanding
<b>Property Function</b>	Fortification	<b>Conservation Area</b>	UCA (Rabat/Gozo)

<b>Outline Description</b>	Bastioned fortified town
<b>Property Description</b>	<p>The Cittadella is a combination of two fortress - a medieval castle and a seventeenth century gunpowder fortress. At the time of the Order's arrival in Malta in 1530, it was the oldest standing work of fortification in the island of Gozo. This was a small land-locked stronghold, which as a refuge place for the local population in times of danger. A devastating raid in 1551 by the Turks under Sinan Pasha reduced the castle to ruins and although this was rebuilt, it was in only after 1599 that serious efforts were made to seek a permanent solution for its defence, resulting in the construction of a new gunpowder fortress. As a result the medieval castle was partially rebuilt to the conventions of the bastioned trace. The new fortress was given a bastioned enceinte along the southern lower part of the perimeter but retained the medieval trace of vertical walls along the northern cliff face. The reconstruction of the old fortress was based on Giovanni Rinaldini's design. The actual works were initially carried out under the supervision of the Maltese resident engineer Vittorio Cassar. The new defences of the Castello were those which gave it its present form and these consist mainly of a large central bastion linked by curtain walls to two demi-bastions, commanded by two towering cavalier. The new enceinte was protected by a ditch, covertway, and a steep glacis. A small ravelin protected the approaches to the main entrance, and a small battery closed off the entrance to the ditch from the northern side.</p>

<b>Scheduled by MEPA</b>	Yes	<b>Degree of Protection</b>	Grade 1	<b>G.N. No.</b>	427	<b>G.N. Date</b>	2001
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<b>Recommended Bibliography</b>	<p>S.C. Spiteri, Fortresses of the Knights (Malta, 2001), 237-43</p> <p>A. Hoppen, The Fortification of Malta by the Order of St John 1530-1798 (2nd Edition, Malta, 1999), 189-198</p> <p>Q. Hughes, Malta, a guide to the fortifications (Malta, 1985), 80-3; Q. Hughes &amp; K. Thake, Malta, The Baroque Island (Malta, 2003), 55, 107</p>
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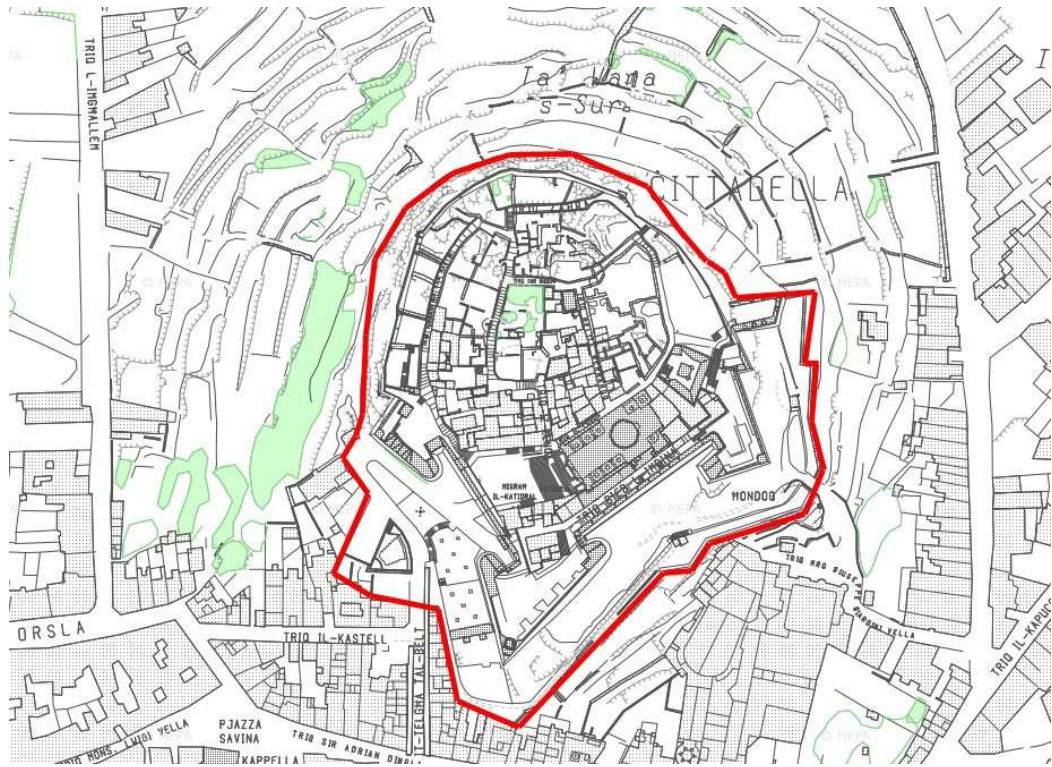
Coordinates : Easting

31562

89570

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

