



SOVRINTENDENZA  
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI  
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

# National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00033

Date of Publication 30 March 2012

<b>Property Name</b>	St. Agatha's Tower		
<b>Address</b>	Triq tad-Dahra		
<b>Town Name</b>	Mellieħa	<b>Toponym</b>	N/A
<b>Property Owner</b>	Government	<b>Local Council</b>	Mellieħa
<b>Guardianship Deed</b>	Yes	<b>Managing Body</b>	Din L-Art Helwa

<b>Period</b>	Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)		
<b>Phase</b>	Early Modern: Knights of St John (1530-1798)		
<b>Cultural Heritage Type &amp; Value</b>	Architectural Historical	<b>Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment</b>	High
<b>Property Function</b>	Fortification	<b>Conservation Area</b>	Not Available

<b>Outline Description</b>	Popularly known as the Red Tower for its distinctive appearance, this tower was built in 1647 and dominates Mellieħa Bay.
<b>Property Description</b>	<p>Designed by Antonio Garsin and built during the reign of Grand Master Lascaris, St Agatha's was completed in 1648 and equipped with artillery in 1649. Situated on the crest of Marfa Ridge, the tower monitored Mellieħa Bay with clear views of Gozo and Comino, while maintaining a visual communication link with the towers along the coast. The tower is a square building with 4 corner towers providing covering fire for the walls. These corner towers are surmounted by distinctive fishtail crenelations. The outer walls are approximately 4 metres thick at the base and the interior is roofed by a barrel vault. During the 18th Century, the tower was strengthened by the addition of a low profile battery around its flanks.</p> <p>Originally a major stronghold in the west of Malta, the tower had a garrison of 30 men, with supplies and ammunition to withstand a 40 day siege. The tower maintained a military function throughout the British Period, being manned through the World Wars, before serving as a radar station for the Armed Forces of Malta. The tower is currently managed by the NGO, Din l-Art Helwa, and was extensively restored between 1999 and 2001.</p>

<b>Scheduled by MEPA</b>	Yes	<b>Degree of Protection</b>	Grade 1	<b>G.N. No.</b>	729	<b>G.N. Date</b>	1995
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<b>Recommended Bibliography</b>	<p>Spiteri, S.C. (2001) <i>Fortresses of the Knights</i>, Malta: Book Distributors Ltd.</p> <p>Spiteri, S.C. (2008) <i>The Art of fortress building in Hospitaller Malta</i>, Malta: Book Distributors Ltd.</p> <p>Spiteri, S.C. (1994) <i>Fortresses of the Cross, Hospitaller Military Architecture (1136-1798)</i>, Malta: Heritage Interpretation Services.</p>
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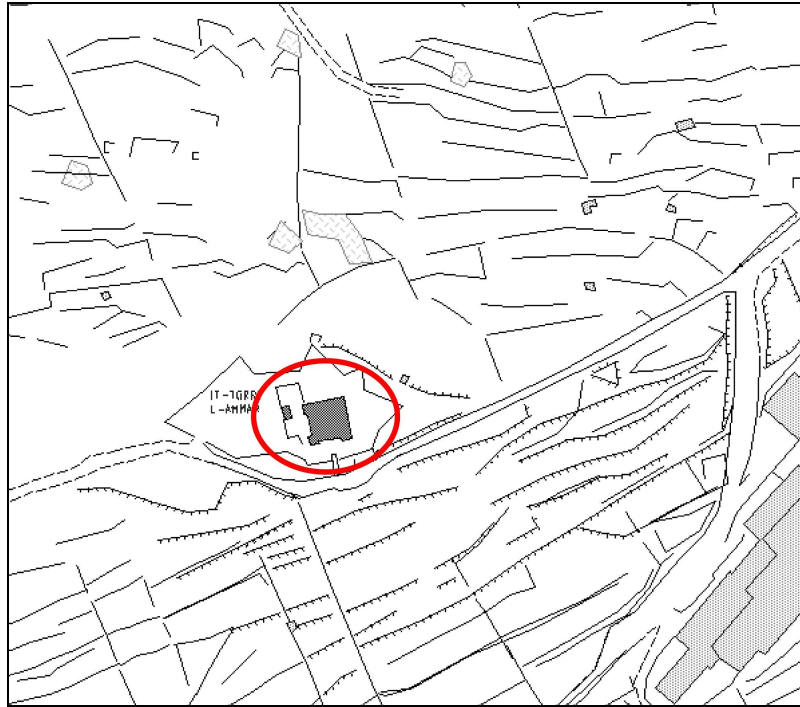
Coordinates : Easting

40812

81534

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

