



SOVRINTENDENZA
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 00048

Date of Publication 30 March 2012

Property Name	Lascaris War Rooms		
Address	Triq is-Sur ta' Lascaris		
Town Name	Valetta	Toponym	N/A
Property Owner	Government	Local Council	Valetta
Guardianship Deed	Yes	Managing Body	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna

Period	Modern (16th to 20th Century AD)		
Phase	Early Modern: Knights of St John (1530-1798)		
Cultural Heritage Type & Value	Historical Architectural	Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment	Very High
Property Function	Defence	Conservation Area	Not Available

Outline Description	Lascaris war rooms were the Operational Headquarters which were built in order to provide a secure place from where war operations could be conducted
Property Description	Located deep in the rock under St Peter and St Paul Bastion under the Upper Barrakka, the Lascaris War Rooms got their name from the nearby Fort Lascaris built by the British on the site of a private garden built by Grand Master Jean Lascaris. Fort Lascaris was accessible through a tunnel which linked it to the Valetta main ditch. The Lascaris War Rooms know their beginning with the declaration of war by Italy. Immediately, the allies felt the need to find a centralised location for and Operational Headquarter from which the defence of the Island could be coordinated. Eventually they also would have been used for intercepting enemy communications and launch operations against enemy convoys bound for Africa. By 1943 the site was ready to be used as coordination centre for the Allied invasion of Sicily, better known as <i>Operation Husky</i> . The tunnel from the knights period was excavated further to include several subterranean rooms. The Operation Headquarters proved to be vital for the outcome of the War and any information could be relayed instantly to coordinate the fire of the anti-aircraft batteries. The War Rooms were kept operational even after the war. In the 1950s they formed part of the NATO Naval Headquarters in Malta. It was during this period that the Operations Headquarters were further amplified with the excavation of more chambers. The complex was kept in use till the early 1970s when NATO shifted its centre of operations to Italy.

Scheduled by MEPA	No	Degree of Protection	-	G.N. No.	-	G.N. Date	-
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Recommended Bibliography	Anon. <i>Lascaris War rooms</i> , Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna, accessed 23 March 2012 < http://www.wirtartna.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2483 >
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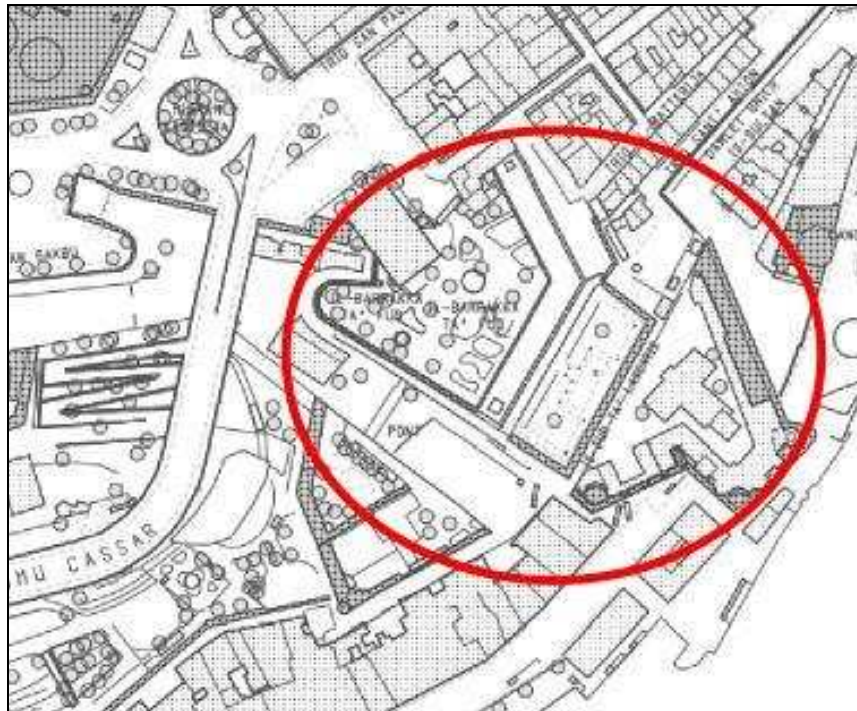
Coordinates : Easting

56025

72607

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

