



SOVRINTENDENZA  
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI  
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

# National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 01130

Date of Publication 28 December 2012

<b>Property Name</b>	St. John's Co-Cathedral		
<b>Address</b>	Misrah San Gwann		
<b>Town Name</b>	Valletta	<b>Toponym</b>	N/A
<b>Property Owner</b>	Religious	<b>Managing Body</b>	Foundation
<b>Local Council</b>	Valletta		
<b>Guardianship Deed</b>	-		

<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 Artistic Historical	<b>Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment</b>	Outstanding
<b>Property Function</b>	Religious	<b>Conservation Area</b>	UCA

<b>Outline Description</b>	Cathedral
<b>Property Description</b>	<p>Considered to be the architectural embodiment of the Knights; its construction was commissioned by La Cassier in 1573 under the supervision of Girolamo Cassar and was completed in 1577. The cathedral continued to be embellished with architectural features and works of art throughout all the Grand Masters' reigns. The façade is typical of Cassar – severe and austere. The interior on the other hand is richly decorated. The nave is 53 metres in length and 15 metres wide with four side chapels on either side - one for each language within the Order of St John; all richly ornamented with marble altars, altarpieces, and memorials in bronze and marble. Richly inlaid marble slabs cover the entire floor of the cathedral. In this cathedral, Cassar has introduced the twin western towers, which screen the buttresses of the side-chapels. The horizontal cornice, broken only by the central balcony, marks the springing of the vault in the cathedral's interior, while the semi-circular recess over the balcony recalls the apse of the eastern end. In the 19th century, the cathedral was entrusted to Giuseppe Hyzler – leader of the Nazarene movement – whose aim was to wipe out the Baroque art and reform Christian art back to simplicity. In the reform, chapel of the French Langue was the first to suffer, as the altar which was one of the most artistic found in the cathedral was removed.</p>

<b>Scheduled by MEPA</b>	Yes	<b>Degree of Protection</b>	Grade 1	<b>G.N. No.</b>	276	<b>G.N. Date</b>	2008
--------------------------	-----	-----------------------------	---------	-----------------	-----	------------------	------

<b>Recommended Bibliography</b>	Cilia D & Ellul M, (1991), <i>Legacy in Stone: the Architecture of the Knights in Malta</i> , Malta: Miranda Publications.
---------------------------------	--

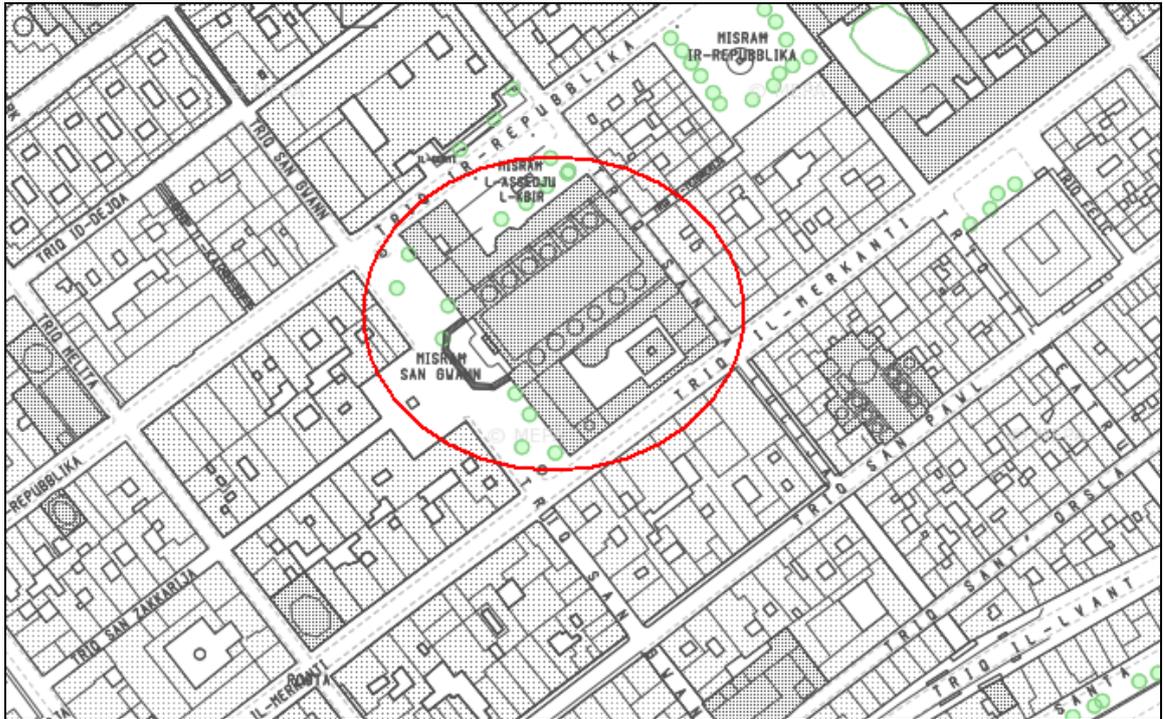
Coordinates : Easting

56081

72905

Northing : Coordinates

Property Plan



Property Images

