



SOVRINTENDENZA  
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI  
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

# National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 01152

Date of Publication 28 December 2012

<b>Property Name</b>	San Antonio Palace and Gardens		
<b>Address</b>	Triq Sant Anton		
<b>Town Name</b>	Attard	<b>Toponym</b>	N/A
<b>Property Owner</b>	Government	<b>Managing Body</b>	President of Malta
<b>Local Council</b>	Attard		
<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 Historical	<b>Cultural Heritage Property Value Assessment</b>	Very High
<b>Property Function</b>	Domestic	<b>Conservation Area</b>	-

<b>Outline Description</b>	Palace: Knights' Period and Gardens
<b>Property Description</b>	<p>Originally built in c1600 as a country villa for the then Knight Antoine de Paule built solely for his leisure. The building was enlarged and turned into a palazzo once de Paule was elected Grand Master of the Order as this was closer to Valletta than Verdala Palace, between 1623-36. Under de Paule, the palazzo was highly decorated with the works by Nasoni. Except for the tower, the palace is built on two floors. The palace continued to be used by subsequent Grand Masters, and later on British governors, and thus the original building has undergone numerous structural changes to accommodate the needs of its occupants. During the Grand Masters reign, the palazzo changed from a T-shaped building into a Latin cross. The balustrated walk round the main courtyard was added during the British period. The gardens that surround the palace were opened to the public in 1882; these are well planned and embellished by walkways, ornamental ponds, fountains, and an aviary. The palace is also adorned with a small chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Pilar which built by de Paule. Its vault is decorated with the coats-of-arms of GMs de Villhena, Pinto and de Rohan. It consists of a rectangular barrel-vaulted nave with arched ribs which divide the ceiling into six bays. The altar is set in a deep chancel separated from the nave by two pilasters which carry the last arched rib of the vault.</p>

<b>Scheduled by MEPA</b>	Yes	<b>Degree of Protection</b>	Grade 1	<b>G.N. No.</b>	1082	<b>G.N. Date</b>	2009
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<b>Recommended Bibliography</b>	<p>Buhagiar M, (2009), <i>Essays on the Knights, and Art and Architecture in Malta (1500-1798)</i>, Malta: Midsea Books.</p> <p>Unkown Author, The Presidential Palace: San Anton, president.gov.mt, 12 November 2012 <a href="http://president.gov.mt/san_anton_palace?l=1">http://president.gov.mt/san_anton_palace?l=1</a></p>
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