



SOVRINTENDENZA  
TAL-PATRIMONJU KULTURALI  
SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

# National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands

NICPMI Inv. No. 01177

Date of Publication 28 December 2012

<b>Property Name</b>	Villa Gourgion		
<b>Address</b>	Triq il-Kbira		
<b>Town Name</b>	Lija	<b>Toponym</b>	N/A
<b>Property Owner</b>	Private	<b>Managing Body</b>	Gallery G
<b>Local Council</b>	Lija		
<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>	Residential villa
<b>Property Description</b>	<p>The villa was built in the 17th century by the Noble family Gourgion Depiro to be used as their country house. The villa is two-storey high structure, having its ceilings decorated with frescos, with abutting servants' quarters and a stable. The façade consists of a central arched doorway reached through two steps, flanked by two bollards. Centrally above the doorway is a large open balcony set on large decorated corbels. Its door is hooded with a semicircular moulding where the family's coat-of-arms is set. On either side of the central doorway and balcony are two vertically aligned windows. The ground floor windows are plain and set in a receding panel, while those on the first floor are mounted by a horizontal moulding. The garden at the rear of the house extended up to the Lija roundabout; however, it was reduced to a small area due to road works and development of the area. In fact, the Lija Belvedere, scheduled by MEPA as Grade 1, was right at the centre of the villa's gardens. The Belvedere was commissioned by the Marquis Depiro in 1857, and designed by the architect Bonavia. This monument was restored between 1995 and 1996 by the Girolamo Cassar School of Masonry and Restoration. The villa on the other hand, has been restored and turned into an art gallery – namely, Gallery G. The villa was used as a seat for the drafting of the 1921 Constitution.</p>

<b>Scheduled by MEPA</b>	Yes	<b>Degree of Protection</b>	Grade 1	<b>G.N. No.</b>	612	<b>G.N. Date</b>	2008
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<b>Recommended Bibliography</b>	<p>Unkown Author, <i>One World: Protecting the most significant buildings, monuments and features of Malta</i> (43) <i>Villa Gourgion</i>, Times of Malta, 12 November 2012 <a href="http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20090929/opinion/one-world-protecting-the-most-significant-">http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20090929/opinion/one-world-protecting-the-most-significant-</a></p> <p>Unkown Author, <i>Lija villa becomes Art Gallery</i>, Times of Malta, 12 November 2012 <a href="http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20041130/local/lija-villa-becomes-art-gallery.105692">http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20041130/local/lija-villa-becomes-art-gallery.105692</a></p>
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