



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Interim Entry

1. **NUMBER** 2346
2. **NAME** *The Old Court House*
3. **LOCATION** Cnr Pearl & Perserverance Sts, Cossack
4. **DESCRIPTION OF ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE ENTRY (GENERAL)**

A fine stone building with a metal roof. Large masonry piers support a verandah on all four sides.

5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Roebourne
6. **OWNER**
7. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE (ASSESSMENT IN DETAIL)**

The place has been assessed by the National Trust of Australia (WA) and has been entered in the Register held by that body as a classified building with the following statement of significance:

From 1872 to c 1900 Cossack was a port of entry for the stations of the Pilbara, the base for the pearling fleets and Pilbara goldfields. An example of an important building in a remote region.

Designed by G Temple-Poole and first planned as a 'T' shaped building in 1890 but later revised in 1895 to the present layout and detailing. Original drawings still exist in the archives of the early design, and copies of the final proposal are in Appendix B. A contract was let in 1895 for the construction but the price of 2058 pounds seems low for such a substantial building when compared with the Police Quarters etc, and the Customs House and Bonded Store.

The place has also been assessed by the Australian Heritage Commission and has been entered in the Register of the National Estate with the following statement of significance:

From 1872 to c 1900 Cossack was a port of entry for the stations of the Pilbara, the base for the pearling fleets and Pilbara goldfields. An example of an important building in a remote region.

The place has also been described by Ray and John Oldham in their book 'George Temple-Poole, Architect of the Golden Years 1885-1897' as follows:

The Court House at Cossack has a dignity that is probably more impressive today than in the bustling days when it was first built, now that it is seen standing alone in a deserted landscape, spinifex creeping right up to its doors.

Proclaiming it as a place of importance is the roof, rising high in stages to a clere-storey which adds scale to the single-storey building.

The building is well-proportioned and the massing of the wings to the higher central portion is particularly satisfactory.

It is a never-ceasing delight to come from the glaring heat in to the cool darkness of the wide colonnade.

**8. REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES
(DATE OF GAZETTAL)**

Interim Entry 24/3/1992

9. CONSERVATION ORDER

10. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

11. REFERENCES

National Trust Assessment Exposition
Register of the National Estate