

Place No. 9 Cossack Precinct



Police complex and Post and Telegraph Office, Cossack, 2009, courtesy National Trust of Australia (WA)

| LOCATION | |
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| Name of Place | Cossack Precinct |
| Other Name (1) | Tien Tsin; Port Walcott; Butcher's Inlet |
| Location/Address | |
| Street Number | |
| Street Name | |
| Suburb/Town | Cossack |
| Other Locational descriptor (text) | The whole of the land contained within the area bounded by Wickham Street, Dampier Street, Pearl Street, Ward Street, Pilot Street, Perseverance Street, Settlers Beach Road to the Cemetery at Lots 422 & 433, and the foreshore to the high water mark (including the Land Backed Wharf), and including Butchers Inlet from southern extent of Vampire Island to Perseverance Rocks. mE519294 mN 7712784 Longitude 117.1853 Latitude -20.6843 |

| OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION | | | | |
|--|---------|-----------|--------|----------|
| Owner | Address | Phone/fax | Status | Item No. |
| 1. State of Western Australia | | | | |
| 2. State of Western Australia (Lease to: the Shire of Roebourne) | | | | |
| 3. State of Western Australia (Management Order to: the Shire of Roebourne) | | | | |
| 4. Terry John Patterson | | | | |
| 5. David Ballantine Fairgrieve | | | | |
| 6. Helen Margaret Wilson | | | | |
| 7. Helen Margaret Wilson & Constance Boyd Berryman as Executors | | | | |
| 8. Trustees of the Northern Diocese | | | | |
| 9. Shane Francis Donovan & Vikki Ann Bull | | | | |
| 10. Geoffrey Peter Van Waardenberg | | | | |
| 11. Kerry Edward Quealy | | | | |

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| 12. Memorial Book. Owner deceased | | | | |
| 13. David Ballantine Fairgrieve | | | | |
| 14. William Dalgety Moore (Deceased) | | | | |
| 15. Louis Peter Samson and Kerry-Lee Samson | | | | |
| 16. Memorial Book. Owner deceased | | | | |
| 17. Michelle Marie Otto | | | | |
| Land Description | Various | | | |
| <i>Reserve No.</i> | <i>Lot/Location No.</i> | <i>Plan/Diagram</i> | <i>Vol/Folio</i> | <i>Item No.</i> |
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| Listing and Assessment | |
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| HCWA Reference Number | 2345 – Customs House and Bond Store 3229 – Police Quarters, Lockup & Service Buildings 2344 – Galbraith's Store 2347 – Cossack Post and Telegraph Office 4019 - Three Toilets 2346 – The Old Court House 3233 - Registrar's Office and Residence (North-West Mercantile Store and Office (fmr)) 4018 - Cookhouse 4017 – Service Building 8675 - Mercantile Store (Ruins) (North West Mercantile Store) 3232 - Cossack Cemetery 3231 - Land Backed Wharf – Cossack 3239 - Cossack Town Site Precinct 3230 - Cossack School (Ruins) 4016 - Kitchen |
| State Register of Heritage Places: (Y/N) | Yes |
| Classified by the National Trust (Y/N) | Yes |
| Register of the National Estate (Y/N) | Yes |
| Local Town Planning Scheme (Y/N) | Yes |
| Management Category | A |

| DESCRIPTION | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Construction Date (1) | 1860s -1890s |
| Construction Date (2) | |
| Site Type (Place Type) | Historic Town |
| Use(s) of Place | |
| <i>Original</i> | RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL/RECREATIONAL EDUCATIONAL COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL/MANUFACTURING TRANSPORT COMMUNICATION GOVERNMENTAL CEMETERY |
| <i>Present</i> | VACANT/UNUSED |
| <i>Other</i> | |
| Construction Materials: | |
| <i>Walls</i> | Multiple |
| <i>Roof</i> | Multiple |
| <i>Other</i> | Multiple |

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| Condition | Varies from archaeological site/ruin to intact |
| Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?): | Varies from none to complete |
| Physical Description | |
| <p>The most immediate aspects of Cossack Precinct are the remains of built structures in the townsite, including the Court House and Bond Store, Post and Telegraph Office, Police Station and Jail, Customs House, Galbraith's Building, and land-backed wharf. These are concentrated along the historic Strand, Perseverance St and Pearl Street.</p> <p>Much of the old townsite is either ruined or removed, and revealed only as archaeological sites (below).</p> <p>The Asian settlement is strung out along the road towards the cemetery, and characterised by market gardens and the remains of habitation and commerce, with distinctive imported Asian objects.</p> <p>The Aboriginal historical campsites, and Afghan camps, are located along the western extent of the raised peninsula and characterised by dense deposits from occupations, camps, working areas and market gardens.</p> <p>The various yards and wells that once sustained the settlement are located along the western extent of the raised peninsula.</p> <p>The remains of the tramway to Roebourne (late 1880s) are revealed through a raised embankment.</p> <p>Butchers Inlet contains the remains of various abandoned and wrecked vessels, chain piles, vessel parts and stone ballast piles. It constitutes one of the richest concentrations of maritime archaeological heritage in the State.</p> | |
| History | |
| <p>The town was established in 1863. At this time it was called Tien Tsin, after the barque of the same name which was commissioned by Walter Padbury to deliver his stock. It was renamed Cossack in 1871, after Sir Frederick Weld visited on the <i>Cossack</i>.</p> <p>Cossack, and the Upper Landing, were significant sites for the arrival of early settlers, such as Padbury. However, it suffered from being separated from the mainland at high tide and from the shallow waters of Butchers Inlet.</p> <p>Cossack was the home of the pearling fleet, established in the 1860s and was a significant setting for the pearling industry decades before it was established at Broome. The pearling fleet relied on Aboriginal and Asian workers and this is remembered in the Aboriginal camps and Asian settlement at Cossack, located between the Police Station and the Cemetery.</p> <p>The gold rushes of the late 1880s saw many new immigrants arrive through Cossack. At this time the settlement was linked to Roebourne with the Tramway. Despite this, the town was slowly eclipsed by Point Samson, with the establishment of the jetty there.</p> <p>In the twentieth century, activities at Cossack included commerce, as seen at Muramats Store, and the turtle processing enterprise based out of the Customs Building.</p> <p>The heritage values of the town were increasingly recognised in the later twentieth century, with national, state and local heritage listings. Today the site is managed by the Shire of Roebourne as a tourist destination.</p> | |
| Archaeology | |
| <p>The townsite that extended from the distinctive Nanny Goat Hill to the Cemetery (with separate Chinese and Japanese sections), and the inlet, is largely an archaeological site, with some key work having been conducted. ¹</p> | |

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| SIGNIFICANCE | |
| Historic theme (s) | 1. DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY 101 Immigration, emigration and refugees 102 Aboriginal occupation 103 Racial contact and interaction |

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| | 113 Natural disasters 2. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION 201 River and sea transport 210 Telecommunications 3. OCCUPATIONS 305 Fishing and other maritime industry 306 Domestic activities 308 Commercial and service industries 310 Manufacturing and processing 4. SOCIAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES 403 Law and order 6. PEOPLE 601 Aboriginal people 603 Early settlers |
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Statement of Significance:

From HCWA

The HCWA Statement of Significance for the Cossack Townsite Precinct, states “that the precinct comprising a number of buildings constructed of local materials and archaeological sites dating from the 1870s, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

- the precinct was a frontier settlement established in 1863, the first port in the North West of Australia and home to Western Australia’s first pearling industry;
- the precinct is a nationally significant archaeological site that has the potential to contribute to a wider cultural understanding of the cultural heritage of the State through use as a research site;
- the precinct contains evidence of the impact of European settlement on Aboriginal communities;
- the precinct was important to the establishment and sustainability of Roebourne and the spread of settlement into the hinterland;
- the precinct is testimony to the rigors of frontier life and contains major evidence of the response of European settlers to a remote environment characterised by scarcity, climatic extremes and the hazards of cyclones and tidal surges;
- the precinct provides evidence of an early multicultural society and the accommodation of the cultural diversity of European, Afghan, Chinese, Japanese, Malaysian, Filipino and Aboriginal people;
- the precinct is associated with outstanding figures in the early development of the Pilbara region, including explorer F T Gregory, the Padbury, Wellard, Broadhurst, Withnell and Sholl families, and Cossack identities such as the Halls and Muramats; and,
- the precinct contains a notable group of public buildings, designed during George Temple Poole’s term as Chief Architect of the Public Works Department.”

ASSOCIATIONS

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| Architect/Designer (1) | George Temple Poole |
| Architect/Designer (2) | |
| Other Associated Person(s) | F T Gregory, the Padbury, Wellard, Broadhurst, Withnell, Hall, Muramat, and Sholl families |

OTHER**References**

De La Rue, K. (1979). *Pearl Shell and Pastures: the Story of Cossack and Roebourne*, and their Place in the History of the North West, from the Earliest Explorations. Cossack, WA, Cossack Project Committee (Inc.).

- Hoey, B. (1997). *Cossack: Land of the Silver Sea*. Perth, WA, Brian Hoey Books.
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- Paterson, A. G. (2006). "Towards a Historical Archaeology of Western Australia's Northwest." *Australasian Historical Archaeology* 24: 99-111.
- Wilson, M. (2005). Variation amongst glass artefact assemblages at Cossack, Western Australia. School of Social and Cultural Studies. Master of Arts thesis, Archaeology, University of Western Australia.
- Withnell Taylor, N. E. (2002). *A Saga of the North-West Yeera-Muk-A-Doo: the First Settlement of North-west Australia told through the Withnell and Jancock Families 1861 to 1890*. Victoria Park ,WA, Hesperian Press.
- Yates, A. (2002). Palm trees, market gardens and china towns: Asian migrant contribution to the development of the Pilbara 1870-1930. PhD thesis, Geography, University of Western Australia.

NOTES

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| MHI 1996 | Site assessed, individual Place Name Records created |
| MHI Review 2012 | Place Name Record created for Cossack as a Precinct |



The Old Court House, Cossack, 2012



View of Cossack from Nanny Goat Hill, 2012



Customs House & Bond Store with wharf in foreground (left), Cossack



Customs House & Bond Store, Cossack



Galbraith's Store, Cossack, 2012



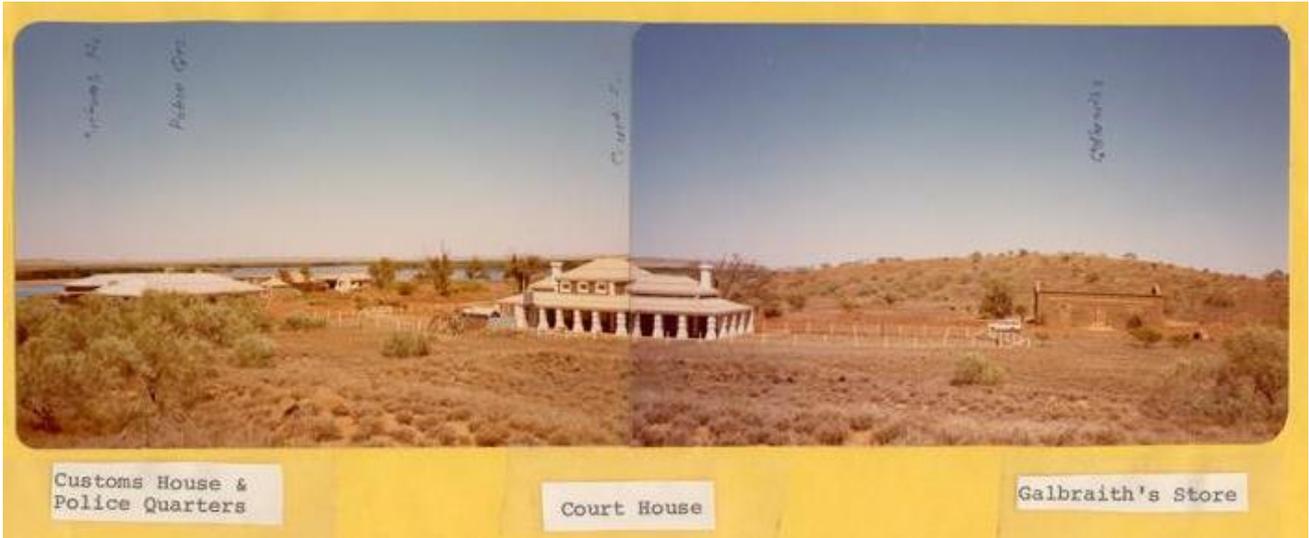
The Japanese Cemetery, 2009, courtesy National Trust of Australia (WA)



Memorial in the Japanese Cemetery, Cossack, 2012



Boat remains in Butchers Inlet, looking NE towards townsite, Cossack, 2012



Cossack in the 1970's, courtesy National Trust of Australia (WA)



Post and Telegraph building, Cossack, 1893
Courtesy Shire of Roebourne Local History Office, 2004.180



Cossack land-backed wharf, 1910
Courtesy Shire of Roebourne Local History Office, 2004.23