

**TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM**

---

**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** former Dierck Homestead  
**ADDRESS** 283 Downs Road, Geraldine Downs

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(www)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.** New **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n / a  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 3 DP 9469

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2466025300

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** c.1880

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Frederick Dierck, owner/builder

**STYLE** Square plan villa

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single-storey dwelling with rectangular footprint and hipped roof. Veranda across principal, north-facing, elevation, lean-to at rear. Double-hung sash windows, bullnose veranda roof. Small weatherboard lean-to addition at south-west corner. Contrasting stone windows surrounds. Brick chimney.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Dressed bluestone [basalt], timber, brick and corrugated metal.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Windows replaced on west side (date unknown).

**SETTING**

The farmhouse stands on the south side of Downs Road, west of its intersection with Sherratt Road. The township of Geraldine is to the south-east. Another dwelling has been erected to the rear of the stone farmhouse. The extent of setting is limited to the immediate environs of the farmhouse, rather than the land parcel as a whole, notwithstanding the potential archaeological values of the property.

## **HISTORY**

Frederick Dierck (1832-1911) was born in Germany and immigrated to New Zealand with his wife Marie (aka Maria) and their three sons in 1872. The shipping list entry for the Dierck family describes Frederick as a farm labourer and stonemason; he was to pursue both occupations in New Zealand. In 1878 Frederick Dierck became a naturalised New Zealander; two years later he sold his Le Cren Street property in Timaru and relocated to Geraldine, where he established a farm and quarry at Geraldine Downs. Dierck advised through the local newspaper that he was leaving this property in May 1898, two years after his wife died, whilst remaining in the quarry business. It was not until 1906 that he sold the farm and moved to live with his son in Akaroa. A farewell was held for Frederick at Geraldine Downs in November 1906. J Harris purchased the farm from Dierck, and it was later owned by James and Clara Lillico, and WG Turner (DP 23159, dated October 1963). James Lillico, a Timaru mill owner and manager, died suddenly at the property on 20 August 1921, at which time it was described as a small-holding that was a weekend retreat for the Lillico family. Jacob La Frantz looked after the property for the Lillicos. The farmhouse remains in residential use, its site having been subdivided by Walter Lillico and Clara Lillico in 1929.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Dierck homestead has historical significance for its association with the Dierck family and the development of farming and quarrying in the area. The house is associated with both the immigration of non-British European settlers to South Canterbury and the 20<sup>th</sup> century development of the rural weekender property for members of Timaru's business class.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Dierck homestead has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the families who have resided in the dwelling since its construction.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Dierck homestead has architectural value as a Victorian square plan villa style farmhouse rendered in permanent materials. The design follows the vernacular conventions of the mid/late-19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Dierck homestead has technological and craftsmanship significance for its locally quarried, masonry construction by Frederick Dierck. Dierck undertook road metalling and built stone bridges for the Geraldine Road Board and was also, in partnership with a Mr White, the contractor the Geraldine Town Board offices in 1885 (heritage item # 106).

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Dierck homestead has contextual value as a historic feature within its rural setting.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the farmhouse pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the dwelling's construction and the development of pastoralism in Geraldine Downs.

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Dierck homestead has overall heritage significance to Geraldine Downs and Timaru district as a whole. The farmhouse has historical significance for its association with the Dierck family and the development of both quarrying and farming in the area and cultural

value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former residents. The former Dierck homestead has architectural value as a Victorian square plan villa style farmhouse and technological and craftsmanship significance for its masonry construction using locally quarried bluestone. The former Dierck homestead has contextual value as a historic feature in the Geraldine Downs landscape and its site has potential archaeological significance in view of the farmhouse's pre-1900 date of construction.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

B

## REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 5 November 1878, p. 2; 2 November 1880, p. 3; 15 September 1882, p. 3; 20 June 1883, p. 3; 10 November 1906, p. 4.
- *South Canterbury Times* 19 February 1885, p. 2.
- *Temuka Leader* 24 May 1884, p. 2; 14 August 1884, p. 2; 21 February 1885, p. 2; 17 May 1898, p. 2; 19 May 1898, p. 2; 22 November 1906, p. 2; 23 August 1921, p. 2.
- *Akaroa Mail & Banks Peninsula Advertiser* 26 September 1911, p. 2.
- *Otago Daily Times* 23 August 1921, p. 4.
- Timaru Cemeteries records; available online.
- Births, Deaths & Marriages historic records; available online.
- NZ historic shipping records; available online.



Extent of setting, limited to immediate garden setting, 283 Downs Road, Geraldine.