

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** former Guscott Farmhouse  
**ADDRESS** 161 Guscott Road, Pareora West  
**PHOTOGRAPH**



**Former District Plan Item No.** NO. 93      **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 2002 / 2

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 1 DP 5239

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2486004400

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** early 1870s?

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Unknown

**STYLE** Italianate villa

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Two-storey, north-facing house with T-shaped footprint and gabled roof forms. Random rubble stone walls with contrasting quoins and window surrounds. Double-hung sash windows with brackets below the sills. Corbelled brick chimney. Entrance door has glass panel and fanlight above. String course between floors.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Bluestone (basalt), plaster, brick and corrugated metal.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Kitchen extension at rear/south elevation (1920s). Ground floor, single-storey addition (c.2000?).

**SETTING**

The house stands on the west side of Guscott Road, roughly midway between Holme Station Road in the north and Beaconsfield Flat Road in the south. A number of farm buildings are located to the north-west of the house. The extent of setting is limited to the immediate garden setting of the farmhouse, including the driveway providing access to it, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

## **HISTORY**

James (c.1830-1909) Guscott, a Devonshire labourer, arrived in New Zealand aboard the *Chariot of Fame* in January 1863; he was accompanied by his wife Mary and their four children. The couple had another five children after they settled in New Zealand. By 1869 James Guscott was resident in Timaru and by 1872 the family had taken up land at Pareora West. The Guscotts built a stone house on their property and requested that the Levels Road Board build two stone bridges to improve access to their property in 1874. Guscott grew wheat and oats and chaired the Pareora School committee. The farm was put up for auction in January 1888 after James had been declared bankrupt in December 1887. The Guscotts relocated to Whanganui in 1888, where James died in 1909. Francis Smith (1871-1942) owned the farm by 1919 and it has passed through other hands since.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Guscott farmhouse has historical significance for its association with the Guscott family, after whom the local road was named, and the development of farming in the area.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

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

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Guscott farmhouse has architectural significance as an example of the Italianate villa style that was popular in the 1870s and 1880s. The T-shaped plan form and decorative detailing are both typical of the Italianate style, here rendered in permanent materials. The designer is currently unknown.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Guscott farmhouse has technological and craftsmanship significance for its stone masonry construction and detailing.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Guscott farmhouse has contextual significance as a local historic feature within the rural landscape of Pareora West. Two stone bridges built at the behest of James Guscott are located to the north of the house on Guscott Road (heritage item # 92) and at the southern end of Guscott Road, immediately adjacent to its intersection with Beaconsfield Flat Road.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

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

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Guscott farmhouse has overall heritage significance to Pareora West and Timaru district as a whole. The house has historical significance for its association with the Guscott family and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former residents. The former Guscott farmhouse has architectural significance as an example of the Italianate villa style and technical and craftsmanship significance for its masonry construction using locally quarried bluestone. The former Guscott farmhouse has contextual significance as a local historic feature and in relation to two bluestone bridges in the vicinity. The former Guscott farmhouse has potential archaeological significance in view of its pre-1900 date of construction.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 21 July 1869, p. 2; 6 December 1872, p. 1; 9 December 1872, p. 1; 5 September 1873, p. 2; 22 October 1873, p. 7; 11 March 1874, p. 4; 15 April 1874, p. 4; 13 May 1874, p. 3; 10 March 1875, p. 4; 14 July 1875, pp. 1 & 3; 22 August 1877, p. 1; 6 December 1877, p. 3; 26 August 1879, p. 2; 31 October 1878, p. 4; 10 August 1885, p. 2; 11 August 1885, p. 2; 16 March 1886, p. 3; 30 January 1888, p. 3.
- *South Canterbury Times* 28 January 1888, p. 3; 21 May 1888, p. 3; 29 August 1888, p. 3; 15 September 1888, p. 3.
- *Press* 2 November 1864, p. 2; 31 October 1878, p. 5; 9 August 1945, p. 1.
- *Lyttelton Times* 31 January 1863, p. 4; 23 December 1887, p. 4.
- *Wanganui Chronicle* 11 February 1909, p. 4.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2002>
- <https://collection.canterburymuseum.com/objects/721490>



Extent of setting, 161 Guscott Road, Pareora West.