

# FORMER GOORAMADDA TOWNSHIP

## Location

GOORAMADDA ROAD GOORAMADDA, INDIGO SHIRE

## Municipality

INDIGO SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8226-0003

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site	While the township of Gooramadda was the location of an early run and possibly schools, churches and businesses, no archaeological remains have been identified at present other than the location of the Police Paddocks and the Gooramadda School House. The latter has been sign posted by the Shire.
Archaeological Significance	The location of the former township of Gooramadda, gazetted in the 1860s, and that of the Gooramadda Run are relatively undeveloped and unsurveyed for archaeological remains. Most buildings, including the school, no longer stand and therefore the location retains the potential for archaeology; including the remains of one of the earliest homesteads in the region.
Historical Significance	Gooramadda is of regional importance as the location of the early Gooramadda Run, first settled by the forerunners of some of Victoria's most prominent families - Brown and Clarke - and the location of one of the earliest homesteads in the region.
Other Names	Gooramadda Township (incorporating the Gooramadda Run),
Hermes Number	149547

## History

Heritage study GOOR018 (Freeman 1999:42) indicates that the town was surveyed in 1857 by Smyth and Darbyshire. The town appears on Everett's 1868 map of Indigo, Chiltern and Wahgunyah.

According to the Rootsweb website:

*Approximate Location:* 10km ENE of Rutherglen.

*Comments:* Also name of a local station taken up in 1839. The township was surveyed in 1864 and proclaimed in 1880.

*Schools:* The Catholic Church opened a school (#875) in 1866 and it closed in 1870.

SS1948 Mount Ochertyre opened in 1877. The school's name was changed to Gooramadda in 1888. The school closed in mid 1903, re-opened in late 1904 and finally closed in 1938.

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~surreal/AVNE/Towns/towns-indigo.html#gooramadda>

Lloyd and Kennedy (2007:8 and 9) note that the location was:

*...first settled by overlanders from New South Wales between 1841 and 1843. In 1855 it was owned by Brown and Clarke who built the first homestead, named Old Lagoon hut, on Indigo Creek (Lloyd and Kennedy 2007:110).*

By 1879 at least some of Brown's land was owned by Mr JC Boyd. Further history detailed that:

Docker did not long have the whole Ovens and Murray district to himself. Nor long after him came two partners, Brown and Clark, who squatted on the Murray River, on Gooramadda Station. The name Gooramadda was applied by the natives to the reed beds on the river flats. The homestead was not on the present site at first, but nearer the Indigo Creek, which then formed the eastern boundary of the run. The two partners, Brown and Clark, married daughters of the Rev J. Docker, Mary, the eldest daughter, becoming Mrs Clark, while her next sister, Sarah Josephine, became the wife of James Lindsay Brown.

Just outside the town proper were North's Hibernian Hotel, not far from the Hibernian Lead, and about the junction of Ready-street and Springs Road, and Brown's John Bull Hotel, lower down the same lead, but on the Chiltern Road, nearly opposite the remains of the present Chinese Camp.

(Neuss 1914, <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/vicpamphlets/1/4/3/pdf/vp1437.pdf>)

The Brown referred to is the ancestor to the Brown Brothers, one of the most prominent of Victoria's early vigneron. Other references mainly relate to the GOORAMADDA POLICE SITE, located on the Murray. According to TourismInternet (<http://www.albury.net.au/~tim/ruthcamp.htm>):

The Police Paddocks is actually an Island of 100 acres used to spell the police horses in the 1880's. It was connected to the mainland by a private bridge over Murphys Creek which is an annabranh of the Murray River. It is now part of the Gooramadda State Forest.

The Paddocks land was temporarily reserved in 1887 (29 December 1887, *Victoria Police Gazette*, p. 366).

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>