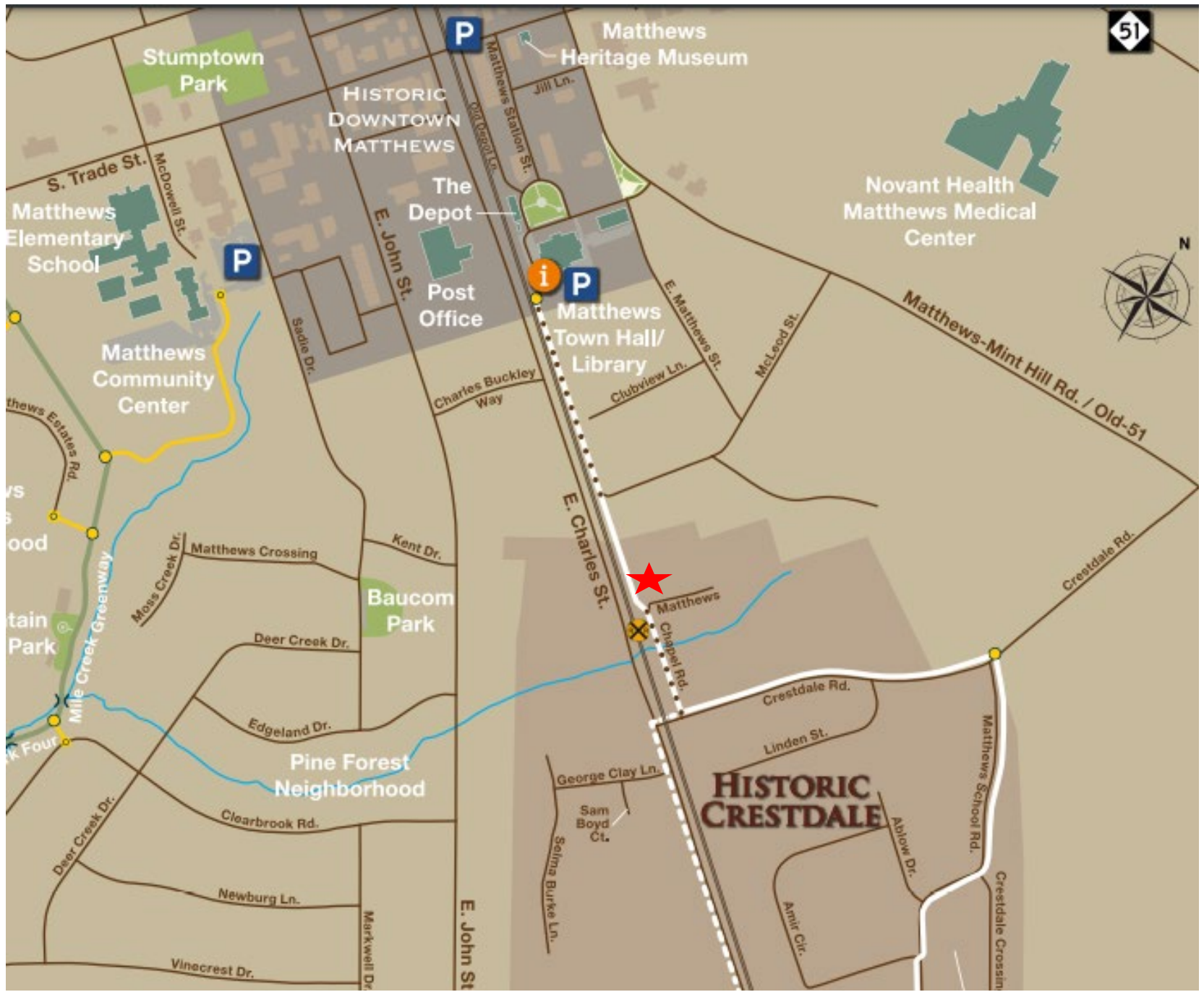# Matthews Chapel Presbyterian Church

MATTHEWS CHAPEL

FOUNDING MATTHEWS CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

After the Civil War, former slaves in the area started the Murkland Presbyterian Church on Old Providence Road. Folks from the Tank Town area attended, even though it was over 6 miles to get there.

By 1878, land was purchased to build a Presbyterian Church in Tank Town. It flourished until the 1960s. In 1969, with the congregation shrinking, it merged with Murkland Presbyterian to form Matthews-Murkland Presbyterian Church.

Rev. J. H. Gamble was the minister for the church for 37 years, serving until 1967. Gamble also served as the principal for the Matthews Colored School and was known to be a strict disciplinarian.

Courtesy: Catawba Story, 1886-1950 by Rev. D. G. Burke

Early Tank Town residents attended Murkland Presbyterian Church, on Old Providence Road before the Matthews Chapel Presbyterian Church was built.

Courtesy: Eleanora Stitt

The second sanctuary of Matthews Chapel was built in 1952. The bell from the first church was placed beside the new structure.

Courtesy: Barbara Taylor, Matthews Heritage Museum

COMMUNITY CENTER DREAM BECOMES REALITY

In 1986 renovations were made to the Matthews Chapel Presbyterian Church to serve as the Crestdale Community Center providing space for the 4-H during weekdays and other community activities such as instruction on sewing and canning. A grant of $6,000 was given by the Foundation of the Carolinas. The project was backed by the Crestdale Community Association, started by Sam and Viola Boyd and other Crestdale residents. Teresa McDow spearheaded the project.

Teresa McDow, from left, and Lola Lawrence talk with Howard Kympton about plans for a community center in Crestdale.

Courtesy: Charlotte Observer, Mary Schulze, photographer

Background Photo, Courtesy: Facebook