Doko to Blythewood

Sources differ on the origin of the unusual name, Doko, but it is generally thought to have been named by an African American railroad worker from an African word meaning 'watering place.' The town became known as Blythewood circa 1877, from the Blythewood Female Seminary, a local private school for girls. The town of Blythewood was incorporated December 24, 1879 by an Act of the SC General Assembly.

This self-guided tour features sites within or near the original Town Center, designated as "within a quarter-mile radius of the Depot," #5 on map.

Walking Tour Guidelines

This self-guided Tour begins and ends at the home of the **Blythewood Historical Society and Museum (BHSM)**, 100 McNulty Street. The walk is approximately 1 hr. and 45 mins on primarily flat ground. For a shorter walk that will encompass sites within the original Town Center, begin at #5 (across Main Street from the Langford-Nord House/BHSM), continue to #7, #9, #13, then #19 and #20.

Contact Us

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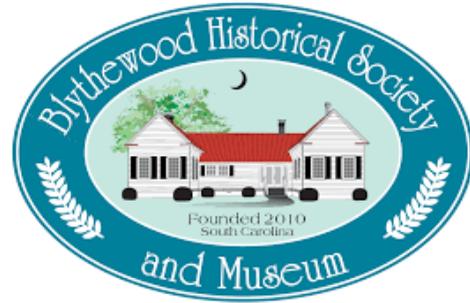
Blythewood

First known as Doko,
originally evolved from the 1700s
settlement known as Level.

In the early 1850s a railroad was constructed between Columbia and Charlotte, and steam engines stopped to take on water and fuel at Doko.

The Doko Post Office opened in 1856 and Doko Depot was built in 1870.

A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR
HISTORIC BLYTHEWOOD
South Carolina

1 **Langford-Nord House** - 100 McNulty Street (YOU ARE HERE)
Built ca. 1904 by Luther Langford, it now houses the BHSM and is designated a Richland Co Landmark. Originally, the front door of the house faced Highway 21. Members of the Langford family lived in the home until April 1988 when the Langford's daughter, Carolyn Dangler, sold the house to the Nord family. Mrs. Cindy Nord made a gift of the house to the BHSM May 17, 2011.

2 **Tally-Tom Boney Milk Shed** - Behind BHSM
This weathered building embodies characteristics of rural farm life in the Blythewood area, and serves as a visual reminder of Blythewood's agricultural heritage. Before refrigeration, the Milk Shed provided a cool, sheltered place to keep milk, butter and other perishables.

3 **Clara Martin Sandwich Shop** - Behind BHSM
Mrs. Clara Boney Martin operated 'The Clara Shop' in the 1950s. It was well known for Mrs. Clara's delicious 'take out' hamburgers, hot dogs, and fried fruit pies. For more than twenty years the shop was a landmark nestled in the shade of a big syca-more tree on Wilson Blvd (Highway 21) in the center of Blythewood. When she closed the shop, her daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Blume, moved it to the Bookhart-Blume House (see # 10). In 1916 the Sandwich Shop was acquired by the BHSM, moved to the Museum property, and restored to its present condition.

4 **Original Blythewood School** - 501 Main Street
Initially a wooden one-room school was on this site. In the 1920s a two-story brick building and the auditorium on the left were erected. The original frame school was razed in 1939 and the gym was added on the right as a Depression-era project of the Works Progress Admin (WPA). The two-story brick building was replaced in 1959 with the current one-story building. Blythewood School's last graduating class received their diplomas in 1970. It housed Blythewood Elementary School from 1970 until 1991. In 1951 Blythewood School was one of the four schools that formed Rich-land School District Two. The small frame house to the right served in the past as the home of the school's principal.

5 **Site of Doko Depot & Water Tank** - 400 Main Street
The first railroad from Columbia to Charlotte was built in the 1850s. The depot was originally designated as the center of Blythewood (1/4 mile radius) when the Town was first incorporated. To was first known as Doko Village and later as Blythewood, circa 1870. The railroad through Blythewood was destroyed on Feb 20, 1865 by General Blair's Corps of the Northern Army. Following the Civil War the railroad was rebuilt and continued to be vital to this area. The depot served Blythewood for 98 years, providing freight shipments, ticket sales, passenger service, US mail, and Western Union Tele-graph service. The depot gradually fell into disuse and was demolished June 30, 1968. (SEE REPLICA OF DEPOT AT #21)

6 **Langford-Wilson Community Store** - 300 Main St
Built in 1914 by the Langford Brothers, this building has served as a general store, a post office, a barbershop and a doctor's office. From the 1940s to the 1980s Wilson's Community Store was considered to be the heart of the town, commercially, geographically and emotionally.

7 **George Peter Hoffman House** - 171 Langford Rd
The Hoffman House is a National Historic Register home and is a designated Richland Co Landmark. Built in 1855 by Hoffman for his bride, Jane Ruff, the trees used in its construction are thought to be of the long leaf pine forest that covered what is now the town. The oldest house in Blythewood, it is also in its most original condition of any house in the town. Additional information provided by the historical site marker.

8 **Town Park Archeological Site** - 171 Langford Road
From June 9 - June 11, 2009, an intensive Phase I archeological survey was conducted on the Hoffman grounds. One excavation revealed a prehistoric site that appears to contain intact deposits. Deptford check-stamped sherds, quartz debitage and a Morrow Mountain projectile point, dating from the Middle Archaic and Early Woodland periods, were found in undisturbed contexts.

9 **Wooten-Proctor House** - 175 Langford Road
Built in 1925 in the Craftsman style, this is one of the earliest brick homes in Blythewood's original Town Center.

10 **Bookhart-Blume House** - 193 Langford Road
Miss Emily Bookhart's father built this house for her in 1905, when she came to teach school in Blythewood. Students came to the house to register for school. While the interior has been modernized over the years, the charm of a southern cottage has been beautifully maintained.

11 **Boney-Hykil House** - 162 Langford Road (Allstate)
Built in 1959 this is one of the oldest houses in the original Town Center. It has been well maintained and is close to its original condition. It has served as a family home, a printing shop for the local poet J. Gordon Coogler, a gift shop, and a business office. A National Geological Marker is embedded in the chimney that reads "1900–504.002," marking the elevation above sea level of the area. The large cedar tree fronting on Langford is one of the focal points of the town's annual Christmas Tree Lighting event.

12 **"De Sto" and Sister Bldg** - 212 and 208 Main Street
These stores were built in 1920 and represent typical commercial architecture of the era. Originally mercantile stores, 208 was a convenience store, officially named "De Sto." Used for a variety of purposes over the years, both structures are a significant visual feature of the original Town Center.
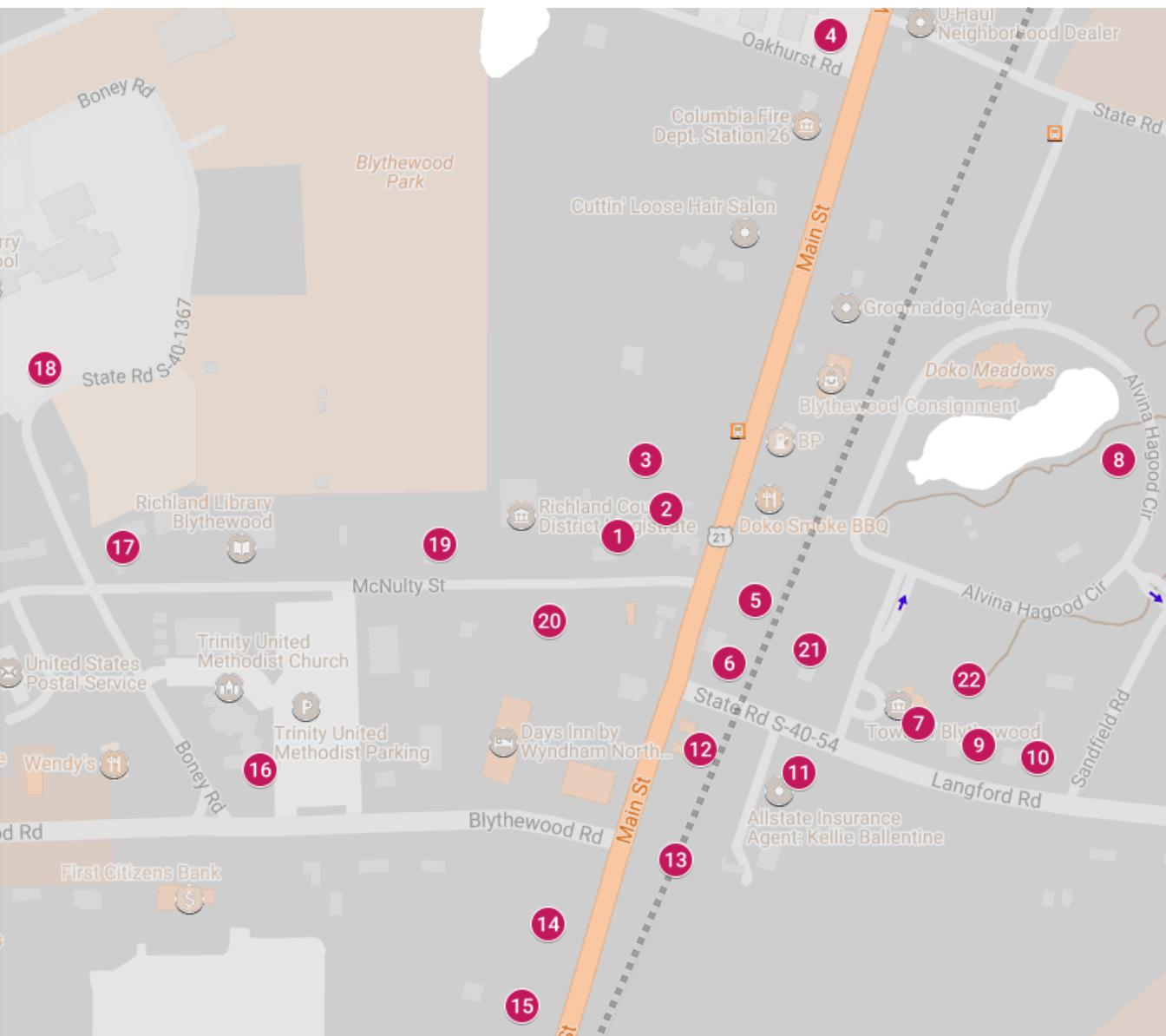
13 **Site of Old Railroad Platform** - 158 Langford Road
When trains stopped at Doko Depot, supplies that had been ordered were unloaded here. Area farmers brought cotton bales, timber, turpentine and other agricultural products here for loading and delivery to their customers.

14 **Jeffares-Creech House** - 113 Main Street
Built ca. 1915 Elizabeth Hogan Jeffares and her four children moved into this house following the death of her husband. To support the family, Mrs. Jeffares opened a boarding house and continued to keep boarders until 1943. Most were teachers and administrators at Blythewood School, but railroad employees, business people and a few newlywed couples also boarded there. In 1942, military training maneuvers were being conducted in the countryside around Blythewood. Lt Winthrop Rockefeller was one of several officers who occasionally ate supper there.

15 **St Mark's Lutheran** - 105 Main Street
The Church was organized in 1885 and the first building erected in 1890, about three miles west of Blythewood on Blythewood Road. A cemetery located behind that church still remains. This Church was relocated to its present site in 1930. Its unique stained glass windows are the oldest of any church in the area. The memorial windows are dedicated to individuals and families important to the Church.

16 **Trinity United Methodist** - Blythewood and Boney Rds
The Church was founded in 1887 under the name of Blythewood Methodist Episcopal Church South. In 1888 a deed was signed by three of the first Trustees to purchase one acre of land for $100 to build "a place of worship." In 1889 a simple white wooden building was constructed so that it faced east toward Highway 21 (Main Street). This original Church building was remodeled in 1949, with more renovations and additions continuing today.

17 **Bethel Baptist** - McNulty and Boney Roads
Bethel Baptist, constructed in 1884, is a designated Richland County Landmark. It began as a 'brush arbor' church, that is, the congregation first met in a lean-to structure covered with brush. This practice was common in the 1700s and 1800s, as churches were sometimes established before congregations had the resources to build a structure. Bethel gave a portion of their land in the early 1900s to build Bethel School for the African American children in the area and was the forerunner of today's Bethel-Hanberry Elementary School. In 1951, it became one of the four founding schools of Richland School District Two. Note the historical marker for more information.

18 **Bethel School** - 125 Boney Road
Bethel Baptist Church donated a portion of its land in the early 1920s for the purpose of erecting a one room school house, henceforth it became known as Bethel School. Becoming part of Blythewood's School District #23 in the late 1930s, six acres of additional land was purchased, and a 4-room school was built to house grades 1 through 8. In 1949 a stone building was erected to house a high school. An additional 20 acres of land was purchased in 1956 and under the leadership of Principal Annie Hanberry, Bethel School became the 12th Black High School in South Carolina to receive the coveted membership into the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. Bethel School along with Blythewood School were two of the four founding schools of Richland District Two. The last segregated high school graduation took place in 1970. The school continues today as Bethel-Hanberry Elementary School.

19 **Langford-Wilson House** - 110 McNulty Street
This house was built ca. 1905. When Miss Frances A. Powell moved to Blythewood in 1911 to become its first female Postmaster, she boarded in and later bought the house. It originally had two rooms, to which four rooms were added. The home features beautiful wide heart pine floors and painted wooden walls. It is among the few remaining houses that were part of Blythewood's original Town Center.

20 **Old Post Office/Wilson 5¢-10¢-25¢ Store** -
110 McNulty Street
Originally located in the center of the business district of Blythewood on Hwy 21, it was built ca. 1912 by Miss Frances A. Powell, who used it as a post office until 1919. From a greenhouse built beside it she sold flowers. After 1919 the building was occupied by a grocery store, and later by the post office in the early years of H. B. McLean's term as postmaster. Then vacant from time to time, the Richland Co Public Library had a branch there in the early 1940s. In 1952 Elton and George Frances Wilson opened Wilson's Store, occupying the building until June 1958. The vacant building was then moved to the Wilson's back yard at 110 McNulty St where it remains today.

21 **Replica of the Original Old Depot** (See #5)

22 **Blythewood Nature Trail at Doko Park** —
Corner Langford and Main Street
Just inside the Park at the end of the Hoffman House parking lot, The Doko Park Nature Trail begins its wind along the edges of the Park and through the woods, over a small wetlands, and returns to the Park's beautiful open fields. The Trail can be short or embrace 6 miles of easy walking. Park in a designated grassy area or on the pavement and picnic wherever you choose. Browse the Town website at www.townofblythewoodsc.gov for more information.