

**White Company Truck Manufacturing Facility**  
**332 W. Bland Street, Suite C, Charlotte NC**  
**(now Resident Culture Brewing Company – South End)**  
**PIN 07308303**

Owner: 332 West Bland Street LLC  
c/o Mangus Capital Partners  
733 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

This property came to light as a result of a media inquiry about the history of Resident Culture Brewing Company's new South End location.

Polaris indicates that the building was constructed in 1920. Additional research is needed to confirm that information. It does appear on the 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for Charlotte ([https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3904cm.g3904cm\\_g06391192901/?sp=42&r=-0.758,0.1745,0.686,0](https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3904cm.g3904cm_g06391192901/?sp=42&r=-0.758,0.1745,0.686,0)). The building (colored pink, located on the far left-side of the page, right beside the large number 37) is labelled "Auto Sales & Service" and is identified as having a 316-318 W. Bland Street address.

Initial research has been primarily limited to the archives of the *Charlotte Observer*. The earliest mention of either of those two addresses in the *Observer* is a November 27, 1923, ad placed by the White Company (see attached). The ad announces the company's move to that location from its prior facilities at 206 S. Poplar, where it located when it first opened in Charlotte in 1916. Founded in 1865 in Cleveland, Ohio, as a diversified conglomerate called White Consolidated Industries, Inc., the White Company first made sewing machines and roller skates, then migrating to bicycles, passenger cars (including taxi cabs, per an October 14, 1923, *Observer* article reporting an order of 500 White cabs from Pennsylvania's Quaker City Cab in Philadelphia), buses, and trucks, before it focused its attention almost exclusively on trucks. The company produced its first truck in 1900, making it the oldest truck manufacturing company in the United States (according to a September 14, 1941, *Observer* article). In subsequent years, the company extended its product lines to include armored cars, diesel generators, farm equipment, and even became a leading manufacturer of military vehicles for the U.S. armed forces from WWII through the Vietnam era. The White Company was acquired by Volvo in 1980. Case Western Reserve University, *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, <https://case.edu/ech/articles/w/white-motor-corp>, accessed January 20, 2022.

By 1925, the company's Bland Street location had a work force of about 40, plus 6 traveling salespeople. In the 1930s, the building was reassigned a 314 W. Bland Street address. In September 1941, the White Company moved its entire Charlotte-based operations to 1514 W. Morehead.

The White Company only leased the Bland Street building. It was co-owned by Oscar J. Thies (president of the Carolina Realty Company) and John M. Scott (president of the Charlotte National Bank). Thies acquired the property in December 1922 and conveyed a 50% ownership interest to Scott in September 1923. Additional research is needed to determine whether the

building was acquired in the transaction or subsequently constructed. A January 24, 1923, *Observer* article reported that Thies purchased the stonework and façade of the Trust Building (previously located on Tryon before the building burned), which he was storing on property he owned on Bland Street with plans to use it in the construction “of some building which he will erect at a future date on his Bland Street property.” It has yet to be determined whether any of the stonework on this Bland Street building came from the Trust building, but Thies is known to have collected stonework from old Charlotte buildings for reuse in other projects. According to a May 14, 1973, *Observer* article, stonework from the Charlotte Academy of Music and the city’s first city hall building were discovered in Thies’ Bland Street building and were being repurposed by a local artist for a public art installation. Additional information about Thies is available in HLC’s designation reports on the Thies Automobile Sales and Service Building and the Thies House.

When the White Company vacated the Bland Street building, the Thies Realty & Mortgage Company advertised the property for lease as a 19,000 square feet space consisting of the main floor and a basement. The Atlantic Greyhound Lines leased the property in late 1941 or early 1942 and remained at the location until at least early 1958. The 1951 Sanborn Map shows the same building with the 314 W. Bland Street address and labelled “Bus Garage & Repair” ([https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3904cm.g3904cm\\_g06391195101/?sp=42&r=-0.097,0.191,0.735,0.293,0](https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3904cm.g3904cm_g06391195101/?sp=42&r=-0.097,0.191,0.735,0.293,0)). Since then, the building has been occupied by several random tenants, including the “Kleen-A-Kar Services” company in the late 1960s that also promoted their boat repair service. In September 1977, the descendants of Thies and Scott sold the property to Poffenbarger & Associates, Inc., who ultimately sold the property to its current owners. It is unclear when the new 334 W. Bland Street was assigned to the building, but Polaris ascribes the same tax ID number to both the 334 and the 314 street address.

- Tommy Warlick  
January 20, 2022



Source: Jason Thomas, “Old building between Craft and Seoul Food sold for adaptive reuse project,” *Charlotte Axios*, November 17, 2017, <https://charlotte.axios.com/109904/old-building-craft-seoul-food-sold-adaptive-reuse-project/>, accessed January 20, 2022.



Source: The Real Yellow Pages, <https://www.yellowpages.com/charlotte-nc/mip/wepak-corporation-27792594>, accessed January 20, 2022.



Source: Tommy Warlick, January 19, 2022.





Source: Tommy Warlick, January 19, 2022.



Source: Tommy Warlick, January 19, 2022.



Source: Tommy Warlick, January 19, 2022.

## WHITES YOU SEE EVERY DAY

Because of their dependability and their low cost of operation White Trucks have been first in the public utility field for years. The 7 Whites which serve the Southern Power Co. perform work typical of the rigorous duty to which these utility company Whites are subjected all over the country.

Baked goods require prompt, careful handling. The delivery equipment of a baker must assure this as well as economy of operation. Carolina Baking Co. finds that its 12 Whites do assure it.

"We find our White Trucks very satisfactory," says a letter from Yarborough & Bellinger, dealers in ice and coal. They operate 5 White Trucks.

Road building operations call for the sturdiest motor trucks. Mecklenburg Highway Commission has been very successful in the operation of its fleet of 8 Whites.

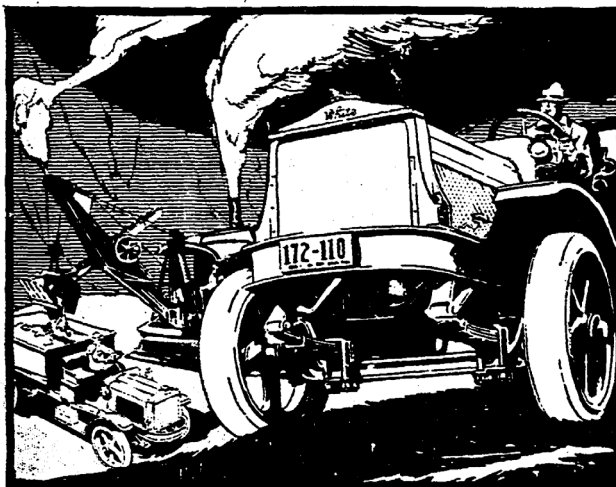
Parker-Gardner's 2 Whites are serving dependably and economically.

Our new home at 316-318 Bland street merits a visit from every motor truck owner in Charlotte. You will be interested and you will be more than welcome.

Miles tell the story of truck life. Eight of the American Railway Express Co.'s White Trucks in the Southern States have exceeded 100,000 miles of service.



Assuring continuous sustained transportation everywhere



## Charlotte Knows Whites

How much did it carry? How far did it run? What did it cost? The answers to these questions determine motor truck value. On the biggest construction jobs in the country White Trucks are carrying the greatest tonnage the greatest number of miles at the lowest cost. Roll Call of White owners lists great fleets of builders. In this industry, as in every other, 100,000 miles and more is common performance for Whites.

THE WHITE COMPANY  
CLEVELAND

CHARLOTTE BRANCH: 316-318 W. BLAND ST.

# WHITE TRUCKS

Source: *Charlotte Observer*, November 27, 1923.