Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.**

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2017

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017

A This return/report is for:
- [ ] a multiemployer plan
- [ ] a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
- [X] a single-employer plan
- [ ] a DFE (specify) ___

B This return/report is:
- [ ] the first return/report
- [ ] the final return/report
- [ ] an amended return/report
- [ ] a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. . . . . ▶ [ ]

D Check box if filing under:
- [X] Form 5558
- [ ] automatic extension
- [ ] the DFVC program
- [ ] special extension (enter description)

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
WHITE CASTLE 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003

1c Effective date of plan 09/20/2015

2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)

WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC.

555 W. GOODALE STREET
COLUMBUS, OH 43216-1498

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN)
31-4340520

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number
614-228-5781

2d Business code (see instructions)
722513

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/11/2018	NINA MARATTO
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/11/2018	ANDY PRAKEL
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor	**3b** Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: **a** Sponsor's name **c** Plan Name	**4b** EIN **4d** PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	1950
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	1834
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	1956
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	3
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	181
d Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**	**6d**	2140
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	1
f Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	2141
g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g**	2121
h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	0
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	**7**	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

2E 2F 2G 2J 2T 3D

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)		**9b** Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)	
(1)	[ ] Insurance	**(1)**	[ ] Insurance
(2)	[ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	**(2)**	[ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3)	[X] Trust	**(3)**	[X] Trust
(4)	[ ] General assets of the sponsor	**(4)**	[ ] General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- **(1)** [X] **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- **(3)** [ ] **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary

b General Schedules

- **(1)** [X] **H** (Financial Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- **(3)** [ ] ___ **A** (Insurance Information)
- **(4)** [X] **C** (Service Provider Information)
- **(5)** [X] **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- **(6)** [ ] **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2017 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2017 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code_____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500)	Service Provider Information	OMB No. 1210-0110
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**	**2017** **This Form is Open to Public Inspection.**

For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017

A Name of plan
WHITE CASTLE 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
31-4340520

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. . . . . [X] Yes [ ] No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

THE VANGUARD GROUP, INC.

23-2186884

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

THE VANGUARD GROUP, INC.

23-1945930

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
15 16 25 37 52	NONE	19300	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [X] No [ ]	0	Yes [X] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes [ ] No [ ]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes [ ] No [ ]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
THE VANGUARD GROUP, INC.	99	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
OAKMARK FUNDS 04-3276558	7 BPS

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
THE VANGUARD GROUP, INC.	99	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
DODGE & COX 94-1441976	10 BPS

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)

(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

DFE/Participating Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2017

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017

A Name of plan
WHITE CASTLE 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003

C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
31-4340520

Part I Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD RETIREMENT SAVINGS TRT III

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): VANGUARD FIDUCIARY TRUST COMPANY

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
38-7041744-024	C	253289

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans)

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Financial Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2017

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017

A Name of plan
WHITE CASTLE 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
31-4340520

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	152627	139043
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	84143	101201
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	157388	632190
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	163778	253289
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	10246340	20666778
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

			(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d	Employer-related investments:			
	(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
	(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e	Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f	Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	10804276	21792501
	Liabilities			
g	Benefit claims payable	1g		
h	Operating payables	1h		
i	Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j	Other liabilities	1j		
k	Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k	0	0
	Net Assets			
l	Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	10804276	21792501

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

	Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a	**Contributions:**			
	(1) Received or receivable in cash from: **(A)** Employers	2a(1)(A)	3420726	
	(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	5716249	
	(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	76836	
	(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
	(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		9213811
b	**Earnings on investments:**			
	(1) Interest:			
	(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
	(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
	(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
	(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
	(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	14583	
	(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
	(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		14583
	(2) Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
	(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
	(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	437941	
	(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		437941
	(3) Rents	2b(3)		
	(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
	(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
	(C) Subtract line **2b(4)(B)** from line **2b(4)(A)** and enter result	2b(4)(C)		0
	(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
	(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
	(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		4087
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		2034935
c Other income	2c		6520
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		11711877
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	718780	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines **2e(1)** through **(3)**	2e(4)		718780
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		773
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses: (1) Professional fees	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Investment advisory and management fees	2i(3)		
(4) Other	2i(4)	4099	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(4)**	2i(5)		4099
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		723652
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		10988225
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) [ ] Unqualified **(2)** [ ] Qualified **(3)** [X] Disclaimer **(4)** [ ] Adverse

b Did the accountant perform a limited scope audit pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and/or 103-12(d)? [X] Yes [ ] No

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: GBQ PARTNERS **(2)** EIN: 20-2122306

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) [ ] This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. **(2)** [ ] It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l.

During the plan year:

		Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	4a		X	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	4b		X	

			Yes	No	Amount
c	Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	4c		X	
d	Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	4d		X	
e	Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	4e	X		4000000
f	Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	4f		X	
g	Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	4g		X	
h	Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	4h		X	
i	Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	4i	X		
j	Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	4j		X	
k	Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	4k		X	
l	Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	4l		X	
m	If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	4m		X	
n	If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	4n			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	**5b(2)** EIN(s)	**5b(3)** PN(s)

5c If the plan is a defined benefit plan, is it covered under the PBGC insurance program (See ERISA section 4021.)? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined
If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year_____. (See instructions.)

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Retirement Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2017

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017

A Name of plan
WHITE CASTLE 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
WHITE CASTLE SYSTEM, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
31-4340520

Part I Distributions

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions **1**

2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):

EIN(s): 23-2186884

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year **3**

Part II Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6 **a** Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived) **6a**

b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year **6b**

c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount) **6c**

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

Part III Amendments

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box. ..... ☐ **Increase** ☐ **Decrease** ☐ **Both** ☐ **No**

Part IV ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

11 **a** Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of participants on whose behalf no contributions were made by an employer as an employer of the participant for:

a The current year	**14a**	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	**14b**	
c The second preceding plan year	**14c**	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	**15a**	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	**15b**	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	**16a**	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	**16b**	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment. ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) through (c)

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt:
☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more

c What duration measure was used to calculate line 19(b)?
☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify):

230 West Street
Suite 700
Columbus, OH 43215

tel 614.221.1120
fax 614.227.6999

www.gbq.com

GBQ Partners

To the Trustees
White Castle 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan
Columbus, Ohio

Independent Auditor's Report

We were engaged to audit the accompanying financial statements of White Castle 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on conducting our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Because of the matter described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* paragraph, however, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion.

Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion

As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the plan administrator instructed us not to perform, and we did not perform, any auditing procedures with respect to the information summarized in the notes to the financial statements, which was certified by Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company, the trustee of the Plan, except for comparing the information with the related information included in the financial statements. We have been informed by the plan administrator that the trustee holds the Plan's investment assets and executes investment transactions. The plan administrator has obtained a certification from the trustee as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and for the years then ended, that the information provided to the plan administrator by the trustee is complete and accurate.

Disclaimer of Opinion

Because of the significance of the matter described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* paragraph, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on these financial statements.

Other Matter – Supplemental Schedules

The supplemental schedule, Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2017 is required by the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA and is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Because of the significance of the matter described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* paragraph, we do not express an opinion on the supplemental schedule.

Report on Form and Content in Compliance With DOL Rules and Regulations

The form and content of the information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedule, other than that derived from the information certified by the trustee, have been audited by us in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and, in our opinion, are presented in compliance with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

GBQ Partners LLC

Columbus, Ohio
October 10, 2018

Financial Statements
with Supplementary Information

White Castle 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan

December 31, 2017 and 2016

CONTENTS

	Page
Independent Auditor's Report	3
Financial Statements:	
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits	5
Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits	6
Notes to Financial Statements	7
Supplementary Information:	
Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) – as of December 31, 2017	16

230 West Street
Suite 700
Columbus, OH 43215

tel 614.221.1120
fax 614.227.6999

www.gbq.com

GBQ Partners

To the Trustees
White Castle 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan
Columbus, Ohio

Independent Auditor's Report

We were engaged to audit the accompanying financial statements of White Castle 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on conducting our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Because of the matter described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* paragraph, however, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion.

Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion

As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the plan administrator instructed us not to perform, and we did not perform, any auditing procedures with respect to the information summarized in the notes to the financial statements, which was certified by Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company, the trustee of the Plan, except for comparing the information with the related information included in the financial statements. We have been informed by the plan administrator that the trustee holds the Plan's investment assets and executes investment transactions. The plan administrator has obtained a certification from the trustee as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and for the years then ended, that the information provided to the plan administrator by the trustee is complete and accurate.

Disclaimer of Opinion

Because of the significance of the matter described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* paragraph, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on these financial statements.

Other Matter – Supplemental Schedules

The supplemental schedule, Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2017 is required by the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA and is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Because of the significance of the matter described in the *Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion* paragraph, we do not express an opinion on the supplemental schedule.

Report on Form and Content in Compliance With DOL Rules and Regulations

The form and content of the information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedule, other than that derived from the information certified by the trustee, have been audited by us in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and, in our opinion, are presented in compliance with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

GBQ Partners LLC

Columbus, Ohio
October 10, 2018

WHITE CASTLE 401(k) RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2017 and 2016

	2017	2016
ASSETS		
Investments at fair value:		
Mutual funds	**$ 20,666,778**	$ 10,246,340
Common collective trust	**253,289**	163,778
	20,920,067	10,410,118
Receivables:		
Employer	**139,043**	152,627
Participants	**101,201**	84,143
Notes receivable from participants	**632,190**	157,388
	872,434	394,158
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	**$ 21,792,501**	$ 10,804,276

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

WHITE CASTLE 401(k) RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2017 and 2016

	2017	2016
Additions to Net Assets Attributed to:		
Investment income:		
Interest and dividends	**$ 442,028**	$ 213,997
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	**2,041,455**	439,406
Total investment income	**2,483,483**	653,403
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	**14,583**	1,334
Contributions:		
Employer	**3,420,726**	3,157,363
Participants	**5,716,249**	4,856,269
Rollovers	**76,836**	60,814
Total contributions	**9,213,811**	8,074,446
Total additions	**11,711,877**	8,729,183
Deductions from Net Assets Attributed to:		
Distributions to participants	**719,553**	152,135
Administrative expense	**4,099**	16,658
Total deductions	**723,652**	168,793
Net increase	**10,988,225**	8,560,390
Net Assets Available for Benefits:		
Beginning of year	**10,804,276**	2,243,886
End of year	**$ 21,792,501**	$ 10,804,276

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

Plan Description

The following brief description of the White Castle 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan) is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the plan agreement for more complete information. Copies of this document are available from the plan administrator. The Plan commenced operations on September 20, 2015.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering substantially all employees of White Castle System, Inc. and Subsidiaries (the Corporation and Plan Sponsor), who meet certain eligibility requirements set forth in the plan agreement. Employees who are age 21 or older and have completed 60 uninterrupted days of service may enroll in the Plan on the first day of the next month after attaining eligibility. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA). Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company (Vanguard) is the record keeper and trustee of the Plan.

Contributions

The Plan allows for participants to defer up to 100% of their compensation up to the maximum allowable amount, including both after-tax Roth and pre-tax elective deferral contributions, as stated by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Participants may also contribute amounts representing rollovers from other qualified defined benefit or contribution plans. The Plan allows catch-up contributions from eligible employees who have attained the age of 50.

The Plan includes a safe harbor matching contribution and allows for an annual profit sharing contribution by the Corporation. The employer matching contributions are made on eligible participant’s elective deferrals at a rate of 100% up to 3% of eligible compensation and 50% between 3% and 5% of eligible compensation. The amount of the profit sharing contribution is determined by the Board of Directors of the Corporation and is allocated to the participants in the same proportion the participant's compensation bears to the total compensation paid to all eligible participants. Employees must have completed one year of service in order to be eligible for employer contributions. There were no profit sharing contributions made in 2017 or 2016.

All contributions are invested as directed by each participant into the various investment options offered by the Plan. Contributions are subject to certain limitations.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and allocations of (a) the Corporation’s contributions, (b) Plan earnings and (c) administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined in the Plan agreement. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant’s vested account.

Plan Description (continued)

Vesting

Participants are vested immediately in their contributions and the employer safe harbor matching contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the employer profit sharing contribution portion of their accounts plus earnings thereon is based upon years of continuous service and is subject to the following vesting percentage provisions:

Years of Service	Vesting Percentage
Less than 1	0%
1	20%
2	40%
3	60%
4	80%
5 or more	100%

Notes Receivable from Participants

The plan agreement allows participants to borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of $1,000 up to a maximum of $50,000 or 50% of the participant's vested account balance, whichever is less. Loans must be repaid within five years unless the loan is granted to allow the participant to purchase his or her principal residence. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest commensurate with local prevailing rates and range from 4.50% to 5.25%. Principal and interest are paid ratably primarily through payroll deductions.

Payment of Benefits

Upon termination of employment for any reason, including death or disability, a participant may receive a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account. A participant is also eligible to receive a distribution from their account upon reaching normal retirement age, which is 65 years of age. The Plan also provides for in-service distributions if certain financial hardship conditions are met or upon reaching age 59½ while employed by the Corporation. In the case of termination of employment, the plan includes mandatory cash-out provisions for account balances less than $5,000.

Forfeited Accounts

At December 31, 2017 and 2016, forfeited non-vested accounts totaled $12,544 and $2,974, respectively. These accounts will be first used to pay administrative expenses, and then may be used to reduce future employer contributions. Forfeitures used to pay administrative expenses were $236 and $16,208 during 2017 and 2016, respectively.

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. For additional disclosure regarding fair value of investments, see the *Fair Value Measurements* footnote herein.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividend income is recorded as of the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. No allowances for credit losses have been recorded as of December 31, 2017 or 2016. If a participant ceases to make loan payments and the plan administrator deems the participant loan to be a distribution, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative Expenses

The Plan’s administrative expenses are paid by the Plan to the extent not paid by forfeited non-vested accounts or by the Corporation, as provided by the Plan agreement.

Information Prepared and Certified by the Trustee

The following information included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedules was obtained from data that has been prepared and certified to as complete and accurate by the Plan's trustee.

	2017	2016
Mutual funds	**$ 20,666,778**	$ 10,246,340
Common collective trust	**253,289**	163,778
Notes receivable from participants	**632,190**	157,388
Total	**$ 21,552,257**	$ 10,567,506

The trustee also certified the completeness and accuracy of the following related to the aforementioned assets for the periods ended December 31:

	2017	2016
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	**$ 2,041,455**	$ 439,406
Interest and dividends income	**442,028**	213,997
Interest income on notes receivables from participants	**14,583**	1,334

Fair Value Measurements

GAAP established a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to measure the fair value of the assets or liabilities being measured. Fair value is defined as the exchange value that would be received on the measurement date to sell an asset or to value the amount paid to transfer a liability in the principal or most advantageous market available to the entity in an orderly transaction between market participants. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

Level 1 Inputs are unadjusted quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity has the ability to access at the measurement date. Level 1 inputs provide the most reliable measure of fair value as of the measurement date.

Level 2 Inputs are based on significant observable inputs, including unadjusted quoted market prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, unadjusted quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, or inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability.

Level 3 Inputs are significant unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Fair Value Measurements (continued)

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2017 and 2016.

Mutual Funds: Valued at the quoted market prices of shares held by the Plan at year-end.

Common Collective Trust: Valued at the net asset value (NAV) provided by the administrator of the fund. Issues and redemptions of units are recorded upon receipt of unit holder's instructions based on the determined NAV per unit, which is determined daily. The NAV is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the fund less its liabilities. The practical expedient is not used when it is for an amount different than the reported NAV. For this fund, there are no unfunded commitments, redemption restrictions and participants can transact daily.

The preceding methods may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's net assets at fair value as of December 31, 2017 and 2016. Classification within the fair value hierarchy table is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2017			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	$ 20,666,778	$ -	$ -	$ 20,666,778
Investments measured at net asset value*	-	-	-	253,289
Total assets at fair value	$ 20,666,778	$ -	$ -	$ 20,920,067

Fair Value Measurements (continued)

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2016			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	$ 10,246,340	$ -	$ -	$ 10,246,340
Investments measured at net asset value*	-	-	-	163,778
Total assets at fair value	$ 10,246,340	$ -	$ -	$ 10,410,118

* In accordance with Subtopic 820-10, certain investments that were measured at net asset value per share (or its equivalent) have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Corporation has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

Tax Status

The Company adopted a prototype non-standardized profit sharing plan with a cash or deferred arrangement, which received a favorable opinion letter from the IRS on May 28, 2014, that stated that the Plan and related trust were designed in accordance with the applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

GAAP requires plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken uncertain tax positions that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by applicable taxing authorities. The plan administrator has analyzed tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that, as of December 31, 2017, there are no uncertain tax positions taken, or expected to be taken, that would require recognition of a liability or that would require disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions. However, currently no audits for any tax periods are in progress.

Party-in-Interest Transactions

Certain plan investments are managed by Vanguard. Vanguard is the trustee as defined by the Plan; and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Administrative expenses totaled $4,099 and $16,658 during 2017 and 2016, respectively.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market volatility and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the 2017 statement of net assets available for benefits.

Subsequent Events – Date of Management's Evaluation

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through the date of the Independent Auditor's Report, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

[This page left intentionally blank]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

[This page left intentionally blank]

WHITE CASTLE 401(k) RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
EIN # 31-4340520 - PLAN #003
Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2017

	(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	(e) Current Value
		Mutual Funds:		
		Artisan International	Artisan International Fund; Institutional Shares	$ 49,780
		Brookfield Global	Brookfield Global Listed Real Estate Fund; Class Y	41,554
		DFA	DFA Emerging Markets Core Equity Port: Inst'l Cl Shr	56,823
		Dodge & Cox	Dodge & Cox Stock Fund	358,522
		Metropolitan West	Metropolitan West Total Return Bond Fund: Class I Shares	152,789
		Morgan Stanley	Small Company Growth Portfolio; Class I	-
		Oakmark	Oakmark International Fund; I Shares	248,845
		PRIMECAP	PRIMECAP Odyssey Growth Fund	254,685
		Royce	Royce Opportunity - Institutional	190,651
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund	12,544
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Inflation-Protected Securities Fund: Adm Shares	65,770
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Index Fund	412,266
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2010 Fund	-
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2015 Fund	218,681
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2020 Fund	2,187,141
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2025 Fund	3,207,097
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2030 Fund	3,436,474
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2035 Fund	2,482,125
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2040 Fund	1,677,213
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2045 Fund	1,615,150
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2050 Fund	942,027
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2055 Fund	737,504
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2060 Fund	303,613
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2065 Fund	1,157
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement Income Fund	1,497,679
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund Admiral Shares	234,387
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Selected Value Fund	123,685
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Small-Cap Growth Index Fund Admiral	158,616
		Common Collective Trust:		
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Retirement Savings Trust III	253,289
		Loans		
	*	Loans to Plan participants	Varying maturity dates with interest rates ranging from 4.50% to 5.25%	632,190
				$ 21,552,257

* Denotes party-in-interest

See Independent Auditor's Report.

WHITE CASTLE 401(k) RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN
EIN # 31-4340520 - PLAN #003
Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2017

	(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	(e) Current Value
		Mutual Funds:		
		Artisan International	Artisan International Fund; Institutional Shares	$ 49,780
		Brookfield Global	Brookfield Global Listed Real Estate Fund; Class Y	41,554
		DFA	DFA Emerging Markets Core Equity Port: Inst'l Cl Shr	56,823
		Dodge & Cox	Dodge & Cox Stock Fund	358,522
		Metropolitan West	Metropolitan West Total Return Bond Fund: Class I Shares	152,789
		Morgan Stanley	Small Company Growth Portfolio; Class I	-
		Oakmark	Oakmark International Fund; I Shares	248,845
		PRIMECAP	PRIMECAP Odyssey Growth Fund	254,685
		Royce	Royce Opportunity - Institutional	190,651
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund	12,544
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Inflation-Protected Securities Fund: Adm Shares	65,770
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Index Fund	412,266
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2010 Fund	-
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2015 Fund	218,681
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2020 Fund	2,187,141
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2025 Fund	3,207,097
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2030 Fund	3,436,474
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2035 Fund	2,482,125
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2040 Fund	1,677,213
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2045 Fund	1,615,150
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2050 Fund	942,027
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2055 Fund	737,504
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2060 Fund	303,613
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2065 Fund	1,157
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement Income Fund	1,497,679
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund Admiral Shares	234,387
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Selected Value Fund	123,685
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Small-Cap Growth Index Fund Admiral	158,616
		Common Collective Trust:		
	*	Vanguard	Vanguard Retirement Savings Trust III	253,289
		Loans		
	*	Loans to Plan participants	Varying maturity dates with interest rates ranging from 4.50% to 5.25%	632,190
				$ 21,552,257

* Denotes party-in-interest

See Independent Auditor's Report.