

Commercial Real Estate

Stacks Espresso owner buys Albany building with new concept in mind

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Tyler Wrightson has short- and long-term plans for the building.
TYLER WRIGHTSON

By Sam Raudins - Reporter, Albany Business Review
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Stacks Espresso Bar owner [Tyler Wrightson](#) purchased a downtown Albany building with plans to expand his hospitality business.

Wrightson, through an LLC, purchased 327 Madison Avenue at the corner of Madison Avenue and South Swan Street April 28. The three-story building housed the Townsend & Company Salon for 30 years until the owner, Doug Townsend, retired in April.

The purchase price of the building was \$430,000 with a mortgage from Pioneer Bank for \$344,000.

Wrightson was represented by [Rudy Lynch](#) of Carrow Real Estate Services, and the seller was represented by [Doug Morabito](#) from RedMark Realty.

The long-term plan for the building is to turn it into a whiskey bar, club or whiskey-centered event space, Wrightson said. In the short term, it's being used as office space for Wrightson's company, Leet Cyber Security.

The goal is to have converted the space to a whiskey bar in the next 12 months, he said. The third-floor apartment could serve as an Airbnb.



Tyler Wrightson is the owner of Stacks Espresso Bar and Leet Cyber Security.
DONNA ABBOTT-VLAHOS

Wrightson said he found the building while looking for a new office space. The views of the Empire State Plaza, the Veterans Memorial Park, the cathedral and green space sold him on the building for a different concept.

He was encouraged by the fact that the previous owner had run a business in the building for three decades.

"I always feel like that's a good indication of a spot being good," he said. "These opportunities only come along probably once in a lifetime, right? I can see us being here for a very, very, very long time."

Wrightson said he's hoped to expand his hospitality ventures beyond Stacks Espresso, and his interest in whiskey sparked the idea. The Stacks brand is already starting its venture beyond coffee by adding liquor, wine and beer to the new Troy location that is opening soon.

"For me, even from the start, Stacks was, in my mind, kind of like a core part or like a cornerstone of a much bigger hospitality-type brand," he said. "So I'm really hoping to turn this into the first whiskey bar of, hopefully, a new arm of that side."

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