
White Horse Tavern Building Reportedly Sold To Infamous Landlord Steve Croman

by [Jen Chung](#) in [Food](#) on [Mar 7, 2019 9:57 am](#)



Photograph by [Orin Blomberg / Flickr](#)

The legendary White Horse Tavern, the literary watering hole where [Dylan Thomas had his last drink\(s\)](#), has been sold, along with other buildings on the same West Village block—and it appears the new owner is the notorious [slumlord Steve Croman](#).

The sale was first [reported by Jeremiah's Vanishing New York](#), which also noted a community board meeting next week for a new liquor license: "Eytan Sugaman [sic] or LLC to be formed, d/b/a White Horse Tavern, 567 Hudson St. 10014 (OP - Bar/Tavern with sidewalk cafe)."

Sugarman, the bar's new operator, [told Eater](#), "We are only focused on preserving the rich history and legacy of this iconic institution for New Yorkers." He's also promising "updated infrastructure." Sugarman owns the UWS Made in New York Pizza, which was accused of stealing [a sauce recipe from Prince Street Pizza](#); Southern Hospitality, which featured Justin

Timberlake as a [founder or something](#); and Times Square steakhouse Hunt & Fish Club, which is co-owned [by... Anthony Scaramucci](#).

"White Horse will become Don Trump Jr and Company's FratBro/WhiteBro hang out," Jeremiah's Vanishing New York's tipster fears.

The [Commercial Observer reports](#), "The sellers of 561 to 567 Hudson Street at West 11th Street, Eddie Brennan and James Munson, are ready to retire, but said their deal was contingent upon obtaining a leaseholder to maintain the century-old bar as is." Sugarman reportedly signed a 15-year-lease, and the broker [involved with the deal said](#), "Eytan Sugarman will run it exactly as it's been for the past 140 years."

Details of how the White Horse Tavern's lease appears to have changed hands are unclear; [according to the Villager](#), "A White Horse bartender, Mackey, told this paper he has no knowledge of any change in ownership or a possible closing of the historic tavern. He said everything seems to be the same, including Eddie Brennan still being its co-owner."

Sugarman's rep confirmed to Eater that the building's new owner is Croman, whose practice of harassing and evicting tenants "[sparked the formation of the first landlord-specific tenant union since the 1980s](#)." Among the allegations that Croman, and broker Barry Swartz, faced: "Incentivizing said harassment by calling rent-stabilized tenants 'targets' in communication with employees, and having the workers compete to obtain the most buyouts, with bonuses of as much as \$10,000; Filing repeated baseless lawsuits against tenants to pressure them out, and creating grounds for the cases by refusing to acknowledge receipt of rent, then suing for back rent."

Croman served jail time for tax and mortgage fraud as well as grand larceny and was [released last year](#). The CNBC show *American Greed* even [aired a segment about him](#), calling him the "Landlord from Hell."

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Mandy Duceater • a day ago

Despite its history, it has mostly become a bro-bar for the worst people in New York City.

24 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



henrytb → Mandy Duceater • a day ago

Yup, I revere its history and the historical structure but I never ever go in there and I find myself in that neck of the woods all the time. Like you said, bro-city.

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



bluecanary1 → Mandy Duceater • a day ago

I must be lucky. Every time I've been, it's been fairly quiet with mainly old people in there.

I'm not there on Friday nights at 10 pm, though.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Fu Boy → bluecanary1 • a day ago

As a general rule, I don't go out to any bar Thursday-Saturday nights. But on the off chance I have been out on those nights ... Oh yeah. Plenty of the WOOOOOOO crowd.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



bluecanary1 → Fu Boy • a day ago

That last night I was there was the night Scalia's death was announced. It was not a WOOOOOOOOO type crowd, but there was a bit of WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO-ing for sure.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Decepticonnor → Mandy Duceater • a day ago

It's been a while since I've been, but it always smelled in there. Not in the typical bar smelling somewhat bad way, but significantly worse. And yeah the crowd there isn't great or anything.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



J_Diggy → Mandy Duceater • a day ago

This.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Reign-of-Drones → Mandy Duceater • a day ago

Is that what it's become? I haven't been in a long, long time.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



ohnononono → Mandy Duceater • a day ago

It's not even cheap.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



AI O → Mandy Duceater • 21 hours ago



Somewhat less offensive than McSorley's, but not by much.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



brunostrange · a day ago

"White Horse will become Don Trump Jr and Company's FratBro/WhiteBro hang out,"

I mean, that's every other bar in Manhattan these days

17 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



bkmanposeur → brunostrange · a day ago

Probably why I enjoy drinking and socializing outside Manhattan.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



the_uptowner → bkmanposeur · a day ago

Should we just declare Manhattan dead and irrelevant now?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Atomic Man → the_uptowner · a day ago

Yes, please. Bridge is that way. See you next Santacon.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



the_uptowner → Atomic Man · a day ago

No thanks. I live uptown, no bridge necessary.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Atomic Man → the_uptowner · a day ago

Not you personally!

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



the_uptowner → Atomic Man · a day ago

I think people who participate in Santacon are execrable.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Atomic Man → the_uptowner · a day ago

Few would disagree and those who would don't matter

few would disagree, and those who would don't matter.
^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Jeremy Freedman → the_uptowner · a day ago

learned a new word - thanks.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



strangemonkey → Jeremy Freedman · a day ago

For me too, hope I can use it as well.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



NikHammer → the_uptowner · 5 hours ago

Ok, then you're OK.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Reign-of-Drones → the_uptowner · a day ago

Fine with me. Maybe people will stay away once and for all.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



jay → bkmanposeur · a day ago

outside **downtown** Manhattan

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



the_uptowner → jay · a day ago

Fair point. I find uptown to be far less bro-ey (although exceptions exist). Harlem is no West Village (thank God for that).

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



NanGoldinShowers → brunostrange · a day ago

There's still good spots if you know where to find them. Ear Inn and the Rusty Knott are still fun.

7 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



FredFreddy → NanGoldinShowers · a day ago

Love Ear Inn. Milano's still gets a good crowd.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Slobby79 → NanGoldinShowers • a day ago

shhhh...

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



brunostrange → NanGoldinShowers • a day ago

yes, agree on both. Frankly surprised Ear Inn is still there, given the surroundings

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Snarfyguy → brunostrange • a day ago

It's astonishing. I take it they own the building.

I almost want to say when that place goes, I'm out, but inertia is a hell of a drug.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



The Party Animal → NanGoldinShowers • a day ago

There are still lots of good dives in Manhattan - I will not name them here.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



strangemonkey → NanGoldinShowers • a day ago

I love the potatoes at Ear Inn.

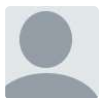
^ | v • Reply • Share ›



RobertMosesSupposesErroneously → brunostrange • a day ago

I mean, that's ~~every other bar in~~ Manhattan these days

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Frank Kotter • a day ago

Up for 15 years, he served 8 months of a one year sentence. Meanwhile, all the poor boys are freezing in county for just as long as they wait to find out if they even committed a crime.

Justice is not only not blind, she loves her Benjamins.

Edit: not only let out early but let out early from his letting out early, 'While his official release date was Sunday, Croman actually walked out of the Manhattan Correctional Facility in Lower Manhattan a couple of days early.'

8 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Atomic Man → Frank Kotter • a day ago

I guess he proved himself rehabilitated.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Reign-of-Drones → Frank Kotter • a day ago

Hmm. What they do with the rest of the 15 years? Give them to some poor kid for smoking a joint?

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



BrooklynBeBop → Frank Kotter • 13 hours ago

Yeah, and Manafort got less than 4 years. (But the Texas woman who voted and was later found to be ineligible to vote got 8 years, which was confirmed on appeal.)

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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bkmanposeur • a day ago

Despite all the conviction the evil landlord continues in his ways. There is no god.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Matt • a day ago

"Where Dylan Thomas died saying the last famous words - 'ech - ech - ech.'

Anyone?

^ | v • Reply • Share >



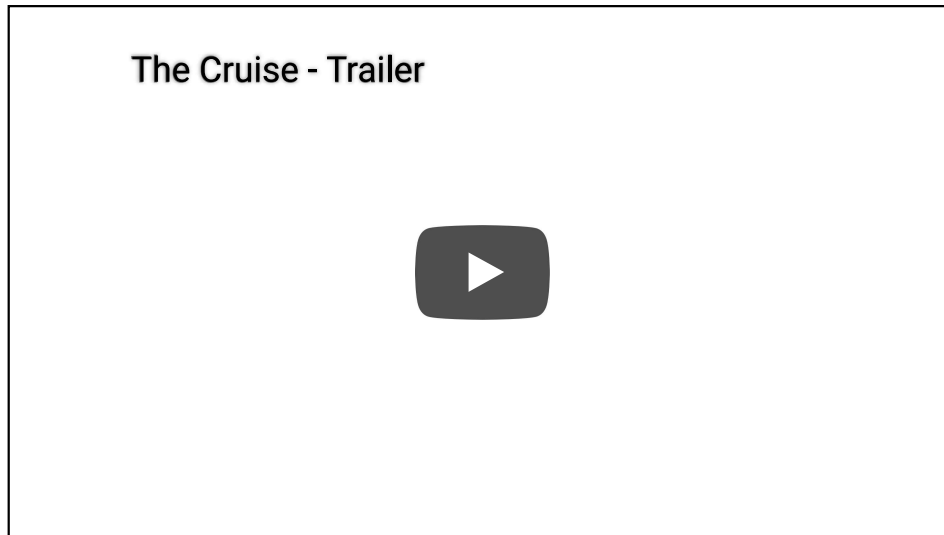
Reign-of-Drones → Matt • a day ago

Do not go gently into the night . . .

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Matt → Reign-of-Drones • a day ago



^ | v • Reply • Share >



Snarfyguy → Matt • a day ago

I hung out with that guy a couple of times; he's a friend of a friend or something.

He's hysterical

HE'S MYSTICAL.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Reign-of-Drones → Matt • a day ago

That was pretty good. Very funny and wonderful movie.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

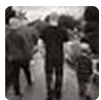


NanGoldinShowers • a day ago

"Rumor has it that in 1953 Welsh poet Dylan Thomas, while on a particularly enlivened bender, drank a record of 18 whiskey shots. Predictably, after he finished slamming shooters, Thomas stumbled outside and collapsed into a deep booze snooze trusting his fellow compatriots to deliver him safely back to his room at the Chelsea Hotel. The next morning he was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital where he was declared dead of "wet brain" or alcoholic encephalopathy, muscle impairment that usually accompanies alcohol abuse. Since that day patrons of the bar have claimed to have seen the full body apparition of Thomas sitting at his favorite corner table or hanging around outside the tavern. There have also been accounts of Thomas's corner table shoved aside in the mornings when the staff arrives to open shop, as if a drunk, impatient person needed to get around it."

<http://www.theoccultsection...>

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Gary Sims • a day ago

Why do we allow this slumlord felon to continue his practice? The man served time at Rikers for elaborate tax and mortgage fraud schemes, but is involved in yet another real estate deal? Lawyers get disbarred, Stockbrokers lose their license to trade, doctors lose their medical license, hell even priests are excommunication...So why does a criminal like Steve Croman get to practice in the same field where he is a convicted felon?

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Reign-of-Drones → Gary Sims • a day ago

Real estate rules. And if he kept his previous portfolio more or less intact, he still has assets. So, he can easily hide behind an LLC or his lawyers. But if I were the owners of the White Horse, given his background, I don't see how they

could trust him to maintain the premises "as is." That's a stretch.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Snarfyguy • a day ago

Note the sign, "Jane Jacobs Way."

: /

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Don Corleone • a day ago

The village is relevant at this point in history.
Level it all and build affordable housing.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Reign-of-Drones • a day ago

This guy they let out of jail already? Guess he'll continue doing what he's always done.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Snarfyguy → Reign-of-Drones • a day ago

"Hey, I paid my debt to society!"

evicts old lady

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Gothampc → Reign-of-Drones • 21 hours ago

Worse, he's teaching his game to his sons.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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