

Whitman Drake Begins Restoration of Long-Vacant Hotel Properties in the Bay Area

The project focuses on bringing abandoned hotel buildings back into usable condition through practical repairs and restoration.

San Francisco, California Nov 19, 2025 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.IssueWire.com)) - Whitman Drake Starts Renovation of Abandoned Hotels in the Bay Area to Help Bring Businesses Back

Bay Area entrepreneur **Whitman Drake, 24**, has started purchasing and repairing abandoned hotel properties in neighborhoods where most businesses have already moved out. Drake said the idea is straightforward: when the large, visible buildings get fixed first, it becomes easier for other businesses to return to the area.

“A lot of these hotels have been sitting empty for years,” Drake said. “They look rough, and when a big building like that is falling apart, it drags the whole block down. If the hotel is cleaned up, the rest of the street doesn’t feel dead anymore.”

Drake said he focuses on hotels because they are usually the largest and most noticeable buildings in these struggling areas. Many small businesses left after the hotels shut down, which led to even more vacant storefronts. By repairing the hotel buildings first, Drake believes the area feels safer and more active, which makes it more likely for shops, restaurants, and other small businesses to come back.

“So far we’re just doing practical repairs — cleaning, fixing damage, securing the place, and getting it back into usable shape,” Drake said. “Once a hotel looks alive again, it changes how people see the whole area.”

Drake plans to continue buying rundown hotel properties one at a time, focusing on neighborhoods that have lost most of their businesses in recent years.

About Whitman Drake

Whitman Drake is a Bay Area investor who focuses on repairing abandoned hotel properties in neighborhoods that have seen significant decline. His work centers on restoring large, unused buildings so the surrounding businesses feel confident returning to the area.

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