

**Askin, Tim**

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**From:** Daykin, Thomas <tom.daykin@jrn.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 3:14 PM  
**To:** Askin, Tim  
**Subject:** Fw: Milwaukee Journal Article regarding the Scottish Rite Center

Tim,

See below. I have also forwarded this to Josh Mintzer, of Saxony Capital.

Can you provide any additional information? This would seem to complicate Saxony's proposal to relocate the windows.

Also, any idea when HPC is to review the request from Saxony?

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**Tom Daykin**

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
Business reporter/commercial development

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**From:** John Gosse <lakeshorehvac@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 1:52 PM  
**To:** Daykin, Thomas <tom.daykin@jrn.com>  
**Subject:** Fw: Milwaukee Journal Article regarding the Scottish Rite Center

Tom

With regards to your article below. Please read the email I have sent to the Milwaukee Preservation Organization.

The Masons of Sheboygan Lodge #11 and the Historic Sheboygan Lodge Foundation no longer own the building located at 411 St Clair which is the destination proposed in this article. The current owner is a private party and is not associated with the Sheboygan Lodge #11 or in Freemasonry in Wisconsin.

Sincerely

John Gosse, PWM  
Sheboygan Lodge #11

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** John Gosse <lakeshorehvac@yahoo.com>

**To:** mpa@milwaukeepreservation.org <mpa@milwaukeepreservation.org>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021, 01:40:44 PM CST

**Subject:** Milwaukee Journal Article regarding the Scottish Rite Center

To Whom it May Concern

The article regarding having the windows relocated to Sheboygan came as quite a surprise to us at Sheboygan Masonic Lodge #11. No one has EVER contacted us and we no longer own the building located at 411 St Clair. It was sold off to a private party that has no ties to the Sheboygan Masonic Fraternity or is even a Mason in the State of Wisconsin. Conditional use in the City of Sheboygan will be limited to residential use per City Planning Commission

I am a current officer in the Sheboygan Lodge and a board member of the Historic Sheboygan Masonic Lodge Foundation. We are all taken back by this and want to make sure that if this decision is made that EVERYONE is clear that the building in Sheboygan is no longer used or owned by any Masonic entity.

Thank you

John Gosse, PWM  
Sheboygan Lodge #11  
(920)627-1095

**Downtown Masonic Center is to repurpose its stained glass windows as part of an apartment project. They instead could move to Sheboygan.**

**Tom Daykin**

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

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A downtown Milwaukee historic building that's being redeveloped might have its stained glass windows relocated to Sheboygan.

The 20 windows are now among the signature features at the former Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 790 N. Van Buren St.

Northfield, Illinois-based Saxony Capital LLC is converting that building into 22 high-end apartments — a project that's received city Historic Preservation Commission approvals.

But that authorization came with a condition.

Saxony Capital can replace the windows in order to allow more light into the apartments.

But they must be reused as interior furnishings — perhaps going into future apartments as decorative items, according to the commission's March ruling.

Commission approval is needed for all exterior changes to the building because it's designated by the city as historic. Those rulings can be appealed to the Common Council.

Now, Saxony Capital is seeking commission approval to instead provide the windows to the historic Sheboygan Masonic Lodge for use at that facility.

That's according to a new filing with the commission.

"We are seeking approval for these windows to be preserved in an appropriate environment suitable for their subject matter at this location," according to the filing from Saxony Capital.

"If there are other options to be discussed we could seek approval for negotiation with HPC staff and the city attorney on the matter," it said.

Josh Mintzer, Saxony Capital principal, couldn't be immediately reached Wednesday for more information.

The condition of reusing the windows was imposed over the objection of the building's then-owner, an affiliate of Madison-based Ascendant Holdings Real Estate LLC.

Eric Nordeen, an Ascendant co-owner, told commission members in March that using the windows as interior furnishings might not go over well with prospective renters.

The designs reflect Masonic lore and symbols — which some people might find off-putting, Nordeen said.

He suggested instead finding others willing to take the windows, such as the Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

But commission members voted for keeping the windows for display at the property — which was suggested by Milwaukee Preservation Alliance Executive Director Jeremy Ebersole.

Ebersole joined Tim Askin, a city historic preservation planner, in opposing the removal of the windows.

Askin said the city's preservation guidelines consider the windows to be a significant part of the building.

The building was constructed as a church in 1889 and became a Masonic facility in 1912. It was extensively remodeled, with the windows installed from the 1920s until around 1950.

Scottish Rite sold the building to the Ascendant affiliate in 2017 for \$3.5 million because the fraternal organization's dwindling membership could no longer afford to maintain it.

Ascendant's planned conversion of the building to a hotel failed to obtain financing.

Sean

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**From:** John Gosse <lakeshorehvac@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 23, 2021 1:05 PM  
**To:** rickgustafson@charter.net; Sean Hurley <SMHurley@ROCKLINEIND.com>  
**Cc:** 'Rich Rupp' <RRRupp@hotmail.com>; 'dave\_engeldinger@yahoo.com' <dave\_engeldinger@yahoo.com>; 'shannon.moody@spartech.com' <shannon.moody@spartech.com>; 'ronegustafson@yahoo.com' <ronegustafson@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Interesting article in Milwaukee Journal

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On Tue, Nov 23, 2021 at 12:57 PM, [rickgustafson@charter.net](mailto:rickgustafson@charter.net)  
<[rickgustafson@charter.net](mailto:rickgustafson@charter.net)> wrote:

I saw the article. Those windows are huge. I suspect they didn't know we sold the building. I'm not sure any of them would fit in the new place - particularly as a window. There was in excess of a million dollars of artwork in that place. Nobody contacted me.

RG

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From: "Sean Hurley"  
To: "[lakeshorehvac@yahoo.com](mailto:lakeshorehvac@yahoo.com)", "Rich Rupp", "[dave\\_engeldinger@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_engeldinger@yahoo.com)", "[shannon.moody@spartech.com](mailto:shannon.moody@spartech.com)", "[rickgustafson@charter.net](mailto:rickgustafson@charter.net)", "[ronegustafson@yahoo.com](mailto:ronegustafson@yahoo.com)"  
Cc:  
Sent: Tuesday November 23 2021 11:51:50AM  
Subject: Interesting article in Milwaukee Journal

Check out this article in the Milwaukee Journal about 6 days ago. Mention of bringing stained glass windows from the former Scottish Rite building in Milwaukee to the Sheboygan Masonic Center. The building is being converted to apartments with a condition that some of the things need to be used somewhere, and not just trashed or sold off. Anybody get a call about this?

The windows would have looked better in the building at St. Clair but if there is a way to use some at our new home it would be worth discussing.

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/money/real-estate/commercial/2021/11/17/downtown-masonic-center-stained-glass-windows-might-move-sheboygan/8649607002/>

Sean

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Seán M. Hurley Sr. †  
Area Administrator, Area 3, District 10

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