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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

## **Joshua Tree bar and restaurant in Allston closes; developer working to complete deal to buy property**

**Posted by Matt Rocheleau**

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By Matt Rocheleau, Boston.com Staff

The Joshua Tree bar and restaurant in Allston has closed permanently and a deal is in the works for a prominent Boston development and real estate firm to buy the property.

The Mount Vernon Company is in the final stages of purchasing the location at 1314 Commonwealth Ave., according to owners on both sides of the transaction.

Bruce Percelay, chairman and founder of Mount Vernon, said his company has not yet picked a tenant to fill the space, but is in talks with several businesses. He said "ideally" the space will become home to a "specialty grocer."

The retail space is on the same block where Mount Vernon is constructing the final of three new high-end, eco-friendly apartment buildings, surrounded by several other residential complexes the company owns and has recently renovated.

The developer has dubbed the area the "Green District" because the company has focused on designing environmental-friendly buildings and encouraging tenants to follow certain sustainable living practices.

Joshua Tree closed its doors for good on Jan. 1, said Giuseppe Arcari, who co-owns the bar with Julian Bolger and Martin Murphy.

"Unfortunately, the business just wasn't there anymore," he said.

Arcari said he expects the sale to Mount Vernon to close by the end of the month.

The Boston Restaurant Talk blog first reported Wednesday on the establishment's closure.

The bar had undergone a series of changes in recent years.

In the summer of 2011, it overhauled its interior and changed its name to Barley Hall. Less than a year later, the name was switched back to Joshua Tree.

City and state land records show the 5,800-square-foot commercial property is assessed at \$2.3 million – \$1.7 million accounts for the value of the building, which has about 10,000 square feet of space on two levels, a basement and a ground floor.

Another Joshua Tree location in Somerville's Davis Square will remain open, according to Arcari. Some of the 50 employees from the Allston location now work at the Somerville spot, others were laid off.

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