

Florence Businessman Buys 125-acre Former Plantation Near Charleston for \$6M



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A nearly 1,500-acre farming operation for sale in Baldwin County north of Orange Beach and Gulf Shores brings several possibilities for development and conservation. It is currently the largest row-crop farm for sale in Alabama.

A 125-acre plantation on Rantowles Creek in southwestern Charleston County recently changed hands for \$6 million.

Thomas Hall Plantation, originally part of the greater Savannah Plantation, sold April 14 to Timothy F. Norwood. The property at 1185 Hughes Road was originally listed for \$6.9 million in 2019.

The main home, a finished custom house of about 7,300 square feet with an open-floor living space, was built in 2014.

Norwood, executive vice president of Florence-based, tax-credit consulting firm Synergi, said the previous owner is building a house on 12 acres next to Thomas Hall Plantation and is leasing the property from Norwood until the house is completed next March.

Norwood and wife Anne plan to build a car garage over the next fews months and redecorate the home next year. In the meantime, when they visit Charleston, they will stay in a carriage house on the property.

The couple plans to maintain a presence in the Pee Dee. They are downsizing from their current home in Florence, and

their son is buying the larger house.

The Thomas Hall home features vaulted ceilings with exposed beams and views from large windows to take in the outdoor open space. The layout features a chef's kitchen, dining room, full bar, billiards, six bedrooms and six bathrooms. A large swimming pool and back patio overlook the creek and sunset views of former rice fields.

In 1818 John Bulow bought the property and renamed it Bulow Plantation. Throughout the 1700s and 1800s it was used for agricultural activities that included enslaved workers. Mining was also practiced until the earthquake of 1886.

The most recent owners, William W. Thomas Jr. Trust, purchased the plantation in 2005 and spent several years crafting the landscape. They are also responsible for protecting the property's footprint through a conservation easement with Ducks Unlimited.

Adjacent to the house is a large outdoor pavilion and entertaining space equipped with a full kitchen and fireplace overlooking a fishing pond. The property also features a greenhouse and fenced garden, storage barn for equipment and gear, and a skeet shooting facility.

Real estate firm Jon Kohler & Associates handled the listing.