

‘Amazing Grace’ estate, horse farm on the market for \$7.5M in Georgia



by TaMaryn Waters

For years, the grand home known as “Amazing Grace” in Thomasville, Ga., was the picturesque backdrop for countless events and enough memories to fill a library.

It’s where bright-eyed teens dressed in suits, tuxes and gowns posed for prom pictures, with their parents and adoring families watching and snapping pictures.

And dinner parties for politicians and friends and receptions, along with the Archbold Tea — a signature event hosted by the Archbold Auxiliary and volunteers as a massive community fundraiser for the Archbold Medical Center.

It was a dream home for Lila Jones and her late husband and notable entrepreneur Kenny Jones, founder of United Welding Service, a leading producer of high-quality truck tool boxes and accessories.

“We opened our doors and shared it with everyone,” said Jones, in an interview with the Tallahassee Democrat.

Now Jones, who’s lived in the home since her husband’s passing 11 years ago, is selling the 56-acre horse farm and ready to start a new chapter.

Details surrounding the ‘Amazing Grace’ estate

The property went on the market this week for \$7.5 million and represents one of the area’s largest horse farms.

It features four spring-fed ponds, a custom 9,600 square-foot home with round classical revival architecture and luxury finishes, according to the listing. The home also boasts a private sitting room, fireplace, spa-inspired bath, dual closets, private den and elevator access.

There’s also a theater room, trophy room, wet bar,

wine storage and a chef-inspired gourmet kitchen, the listing said. Modern touches are seen visible throughout the home, including electric blinds, hidden televisions, integrated lighting controls and five gas fireplaces.

Jon Kohler, an expert in large estate and plantation properties and founder of JON KOHLER & ASSOCIATES, said the “Amazing Grace” property is spectacular and holds fond memories for Jones, considering she was raised on the farm and was later able to build a home there.

He said no expense was spared in the home’s construction. Kohler, who said Jones’s husband revolutionized the truck toolbox, said the businessman sold his company and gave his wife free rein to imagine a dream home.

“He sold the business at the beginning of the construction and went from building whatever you want to there’s no budget. And, by the way, you can take the jet and fly anywhere in the northern hemisphere and source whatever you want,” Kohler said. “And, that’s what she did ...”

“They’ve got doors from Honduras, chandeliers from Central America. It’s absolutely the best of the best artisans, and they built a masterpiece,” he said. “It’s like looking at a modern day Pebble Hill (a reference to a 3,000 acre estate and museum known for hosting weddings and large events in Thomasville, Ga.)”

The story behind the ‘Amazing Grace’ home’s name

Jones said she and her ex-husband purchased the property in 1989 and built their first house there, which later flooded. A busted toilet was the culprit and ran for two weeks before the problem was detected.

After consulting with contractors, the couple decided to rebuild. Construction for the second home began in 2006 and took two years to finish.

The story behind the property’s name is as unique as the home itself.

Jones said she recalls her husband saying, ““Oh my goodness ... It’s by the grace of God that I can build something so amazing. I am certainly blessed.””

A week later, Jones said she visited an art center owned by her friend and artist, Tom Tiffin, in Eastpoint and was struck by a black and white painting that captured the beauty of a large white bird.

It just so happened to be called “Amazing Grace,” a name given by Tiffin’s mother, who stated that it was by the grace of God that he could paint something so amazing.

The painting came home with her that day. The serendipitous tale felt like confirmation, like the art was meant to bring beauty to their space. It sat perched in her dining room all these years and the words “Amazing Grace” was etched into the steps for all to see.



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