

George Jones, Tammy Wynette home on sale



LAKELAND - The former South Lakeland home of country music stars George Jones and Tammy Wynette is on the market for \$2.3 million.

The 6,390-square-foot home at 3420 State Road 540A is on seven acres and has 16 rooms, including four bedrooms and four bathrooms; separate entertaining quarters; a horse barn with four stalls; and a pool in the shape of a guitar.

Lawyer Kent Lilly currently owns the home, according to property records. He bought it in 2002 for \$750,000 from Friedrich Wagner.

Lilly did not return a phone message Friday.

The house was called the "Old Plantation" when Jones and Wynette lived there. They had parties there and built an outdoor concert venue called the Old Plantation Music Park, where country music superstars Loretta Lynn, Johnny Cash, Conway Twitty and Charley Pride performed.

In Jones' book, called "I Lived to Tell It All," Jones wrote that his time in Lakeland with Wynette was filled with good memories.

"At that time, I was happier than I'd ever been," he wrote in the book.

Jones was known for his wild behavior.

Wynette said in her 1979 autobiography that she awoke at 1 a.m. one night to find her husband gone from their Lakeland home.

Wynette drove to the nearest bar 10 miles away and found their riding mower in the parking lot.

"He'd driven that mower right down a main highway," Wynette wrote in "Stand By Your Man." "He looked up and saw me and said, 'Well, fellas, here she is now. My little wife. I told you she'd come after me.'"

Jones bought his vacation home in Lakeland in the late 1960s. Soon after marrying Wynette in 1969, the couple moved to Lakeland full time.

The press called Jones and Wynette "Mr. and Mrs. Country." The couple divorced in 1975 and later sold the house for \$550,000.

According to the real estate site of Engel & Volkers, the house was built in 1902 by lumber magnate H.B. Carter. The site says Carter entertained William Jennings Bryan, Thomas Edison, and Teddy Roosevelt when they visited the area. More recently, the site says, then California Gov. Ronald Reagan visited Realtor Bill Loftin in the home.

Ralph Stano, a Realtor with Engel & Volkers did not return a phone message Friday.

The home can be seen at www.twostoryhouse.net. "Two Story House" is a song Jones and Wynette sang together.

Wynette died when she was 55. Jones, 80, lives in Franklin, Tenn.