

# Historic home with old Florida feel sells for \$2.6 million

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This 100-year-old home in Lake Wales gated Mountain Lake golf community recently sold for \$2.6 million. (Photos by Trish Finley with Florida Hue Photography)



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A hundred-year-old home with an old Florida feel and neighboring citrus groves just sold for \$2.6 million.

“It’s something out of a fairy tale,” said listing agent Colin Wells, with Signature Properties of Central Florida. “As soon as you pull through the driveway there, it’s just a calming feeling on that property.”

The home with 4,926-square-feet of living space is in the gated Mountain Lake community of Lake Wales, an area listed on the National Register of Historic Places with a golf course and other community amenities.

“We’ve been a winter respite for over 100 years and so a lot of our current resident members we’re coming to visit their aunts and uncles and grandparents here for the holidays and spring break. That family-centered approach just permeates the entire park, as we call it,” said Jeremy Brown, director of membership and marketing at Mountain Lake.

Wells said the home has a unique layout.

“The property itself has four distinct buildings. You have the main home, you have a pool house, you have a full guest cottage, and then you have a detached two car garage with space above that,” Wells told GrowthSpotter. “It was built in 1924 so [there are] a lot of updates, however paying homage to the original design of the home.”

Architect Franklin W. Abbott designed the home and many others in the community, which was designed by the Olmstead Brothers as a winter getaway location near one of the highest points in Florida and Bok Tower Gardens.

“I think what motivated the new owners and the buyers of this home are that it was so unique and it has the modern conveniences they were looking for,” Wells said. “But it is very much a classic home for Mountain Lake and has that old Florida feel and I don’t think that they have plans to make any drastic changes.”

Public records show the sellers of the home are Margo and Terence Boyle and the buyers are a trust with Christopher and Elizabeth Blau listed as trustees.

“The fact that it is a move-in ready home that has been lovingly cared for and updated and restored is really appealing to our clientele,” Wells said.

The main home is 2,691-square-feet with two bedrooms and two bathrooms. The guest house is also a 2-2 with additional sleeping spaces in the pool house and above the garage.

“It’s timeless,” Wells said, adding the home has been updated with modern conveniences but keeping the charm with items like brick floors, fireplace mantles, and manicured landscaping. “You talk about a home that was built 100 years ago and the different owners adding their particular tastes over the decades. It kind of becomes an amalgamation of the original home with all these modern conveniences as time progresses.”

Even with four separate structures, everything seems to flow.

“It works well for the type of residents and membership that Mountain Lake has. You have those distinct guest spaces if you have adult children and grandkids, the guest cottage is perfect,” Wells explained.

The property is 3.42 acres with some manicured gardens, fruit trees, and a fountain in front. Beyond the property line is a commercial citrus grove.

“The Mountain Lake community is part of the Mountain Lake Corporation and the corporation owns over 500 acres of surrounding citrus groves and agriculture land,” Brown explained. “So on the other side of this property, just to the north, those are Mountain Lake Corporation owned groves.”

The land gives the property a sense of calm.

“I think the first thing you notice is how quiet the property is. It’s very peaceful,” Wells said. “You can tell a lot of love and attention went into maintaining this home and it was definitely a family gathering space. You feel that as soon as you drive on to the property. [It’s] very inviting.”

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