

ON THE MARKET

A home that sings ‘Come fly with me’

Whelan Farms Airport is everything its name purports it to be, plus there’s a log cabin. Owned by retired aviator Tom Whelan, who made a career out of flying corporate jets for a Fortune 500 company, this 27-acre stretch of property is a secluded parcel that by nature is comprised of ponds and fields. But for more than three decades, it has existed as something lofty. Not just as a home but as both a working



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Whelan Farms Airport, fully licensed and active, is home to hangars and a 1980 log cabin.

farm and a private airport. “I’m a retired corporate pilot, and worked for a major Fortune 500 company, flying all over the world,” said Whelan, who has owned the property since 1978, “and built this all the while.” The airport section is a lush expanse of level Bethlehem land, a Federal Aviation Administration-licensed facility with a 1,400-foot turf landing strip which can support aircraft, helicopters, and hot air balloons. Listing agent Beverly Mosch said it is “reminiscent of a golf course.” Furthermore, with its four large hangars, Whelan Farms Airport is its own little Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. This otherwise hay farm is also where Whelan has spent



The hangars hold three airplanes, but Whelan Farms Airport is also known for its display of hot air balloons.

the past few decades building airplanes from scratch, then flying them to distant parts of the country. “I’ve built so many airplanes here,” said Whelan, “I couldn’t even count.” But he can count how many log cabin homes he has built there — one. The log cabin he constructed in 1980, two years after he purchased the land, has five rooms and cathedral ceilings, plus a stone fireplace. Back to the aviation aspect of the property, because it is not often a home that is federally licensed for aircraft takeoff hits the market, the sailing away of hot air balloons has become a newfound hallmark of Whelan Farms Airport. “We’re flying (hot air balloons) out of here any time the weather’s good,” said Whelan, before explaining in highly technical aviation terms aerial trajectories. “Wherever the wind is going to take us.”

— Jack Coraggio

IN THE DETAILS

Listing: Klemm Real Estate

Price: \$1,895,000

Bedrooms: 3 **Baths:** 2

Acreage: 27

Year built: 1980

Do you have a home for sale with a story? We’d love to tell it. Share with Alec Johnson at ajohnson@rep-am.com