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Former Perkins restaurant in Stuart to serve up barbecue

By Paul Ivce

Originally published 06:35 p.m., September 6, 2011

Updated 07:16 p.m., September 6, 2011

STUART — The former Perkins Restaurant & Bakery site on U.S. 1 wasn't on the market long.

The property was sold less than 30 days after the 6,604-square-foot building at 2583 S.E. Federal Highway was put up for sale for \$1.375 million by its owner, Renaeris Properties Holding Co. of Jamaica Estates, N.Y.

An offer "within 98 percent of that asking price" was accepted and the sale was closed last week, within 30 days of acceptance, said Chris Klein, co-owner of Stuart-based Treasure Coast Commercial Real Estate, which brokered the deal.

The new owners plan to open a barbecue restaurant, Southern Pig & Cattle Co., in about two months, said one of the partners, Gary Nolan of Ocala.

He said he and his partners, his cousin Winston Tomlinson and Tomlinson's son Chris, formerly owned several restaurants in the Sonny's Barbecue chain. Sonny Tillman, the founder of that chain, is Winston Tomlinson's father-in-law.

Nolan said he brought the first Sonny's to Stuart in 1983 and eventually owned three Sonny's franchised restaurants on the Treasure Coast until he sold them in 2003.

The Tomlinsons currently own five Dustin's Bar-B-Q restaurants, four in Volusia County and one in Brevard County.

Nolan said they plan to add a new facade to the Stuart site, including a porch across the front, and will put in new tables and chairs.

He said he didn't have an estimate of the cost of the renovations. "That's what we're trying to get now," Nolan said in a telephone interview.

Southern Pig & Cattle Co. will serve barbecue and steaks and will also have salad and dessert bars, Nolan said.

"We pretty much do everything from scratch," Nolan said. "That's what we're all about, making everything fresh."

The building, which first housed a Flamingo restaurant in the 1960s, doesn't need major renovations because a new roof, electrical wiring and air conditioning were installed in 2007, Klein said.

Perkins closed its Stuart restaurant on June 15 along with 57 others as part of a restructuring plan two days after the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection at a U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware.



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