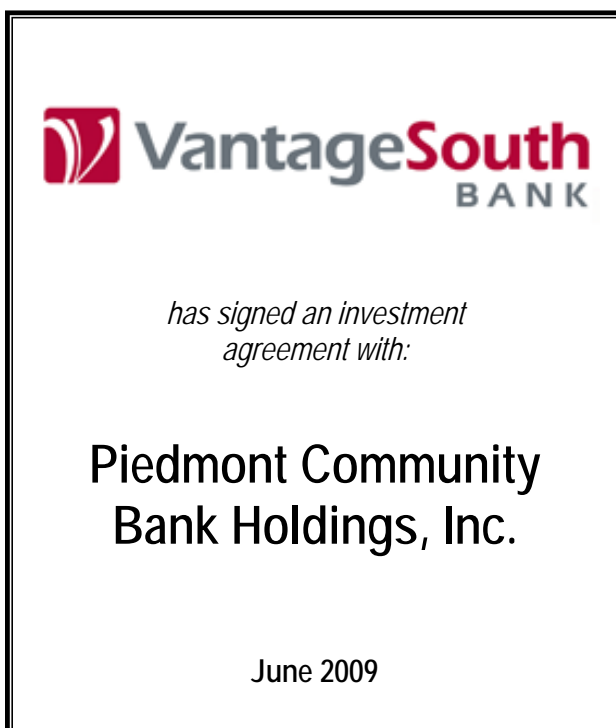


HOWE BARNES IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
OUR RECENT ADVISORY TRANSACTION

Howe Barnes acted as financial advisor to
VantageSouth Bank in this transaction.



VantageSouth Bank, headquartered in Burlington, NC, has entered into an investment agreement with Piedmont Community Bank Holdings, Inc., a private investor, whereby Piedmont will purchase a minimum of \$6,850,000 of non-cumulative convertible perpetual preferred stock at \$4.59 per share from VantageSouth.

VantageSouth will simultaneously conduct a rights offering to its current shareholders providing for the offer and sale of up to \$1,150,000 of preferred stock at \$4.59 per share. Piedmont has agreed to purchase any shares not sold to VantageSouth's current shareholders in the Rights Offering. The preferred shares sold to Piedmont and offered to VantageSouth shareholders will be convertible at the option of the holders into shares of VantageSouth common stock on a one-for-one basis. The offer and sale of these shares will be made pursuant to an Offering Circular.

VantageSouth Financial Highlights

Total Assets (\$000s):	\$96,385	Leverage Ratio:	7.4%
Total Equity (\$000s):	\$7,304	Tier 1 Capital Ratio:	8.8%
Equity / Assets:	7.6%	Risk Based Capital Ratio:	10.0%

Financial data as of March 31, 2009
Source: SNL Financial LC

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