LUMINENT MORTGAGE CAPITAL INC
Form 424B2
February 08, 2005

Table of Contents

Prospectus Supplement **Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2)**
(to prospectus dated January 19, 2005) **Registration Statement No. 333-121816**

5,700,000 SHARES

COMMON STOCK

(par value $0.001 per share)

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relate to the issuance and sale of shares of our common stock from time to time through our sales agent, Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. In accordance with a sales agreement dated February 7, 2005 between Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. and us, we may offer shares of common stock with an aggregate public offering price of up to ten percent (10%) of the aggregate market value of our common stock held by non-affiliates on the date of the accompanying prospectus. These sales, if any, will be made pursuant to the terms of the sales agreement between us and our sales agent, the form of which is incorporated by reference in the registration statement of which the accompanying prospectus is a part.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol LUM. Sales of shares of our common stock under this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, if any, may be made in privately negotiated transactions and/or any other method permitted by law, including, but not limited to, sales at other than a fixed price made on or through facilities of the New York Stock Exchange or sales made to or through a market maker or electronic communications network, or in any other manner that may be deemed to be an at the market offering as defined in Rule 415 promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. We refer to these types of sales as at-the-market transactions. Our sales agent will make all sales using commercially reasonable efforts consistent with its normal trading and sales practices, on mutually agreed terms between our sales agent and us. On February 4, 2005, the last reported sales price of our common stock on the NYSE Composite Transaction Tape was $11.67 per share.

The compensation to our sales agent for sales of shares of common stock sold pursuant to the sales agreement shall be 3.0% of the gross proceeds of sales price per share for the first 300,000 shares sold per calendar month and 2.5% of the gross proceeds of sales price per share for shares sold in excess of the 300,000 shares threshold per calendar month. The net proceeds from any sales under this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus will be used as described under Use of Proceeds in the accompanying prospectus.

In connection with the sale of shares of common stock on our behalf, our sales agent may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act, and the compensation of our sales agent may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. We have agreed to provide indemnification and contribution to our sales agent against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

You should read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus carefully before you invest, including the risk factors described under Risk Factors beginning on page 5 of the accompanying prospectus. These documents contain information you should consider when making your investment decision.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

CANTOR FITZGERALD & CO.

The date of this prospectus supplement is February 7, 2005.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

$500,000,000

Common Stock
Preferred Stock
Warrants to Purchase Common Stock or Preferred Stock
Debt Securities

By this prospectus, we may offer, from time to time:

- shares of our common stock;
- shares of our preferred stock;
- warrants to purchase shares of our common stock or preferred stock;
- debt securities; or
- any combination of the foregoing

in one or more series with an aggregate initial public offering price of up to $500,000,000. We will provide specific terms of each issuance of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you decide to invest.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of these securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol LUM.

To ensure we qualify as a real estate investment trust, no person may own more than 9.8% of the outstanding shares of any class of our common stock or our preferred stock, unless our board of directors waives this limitation.

See Risk Factors beginning on page 5 of this prospectus for a description of risks that should be considered by purchasers of these securities.

We may offer these securities in amounts, at prices and on terms to be set forth in one or more prospectus supplements. We may sell these securities to or through underwriters, dealers or agents or we may sell these securities directly to investors on our own behalf.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is January 19, 2005

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any related prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, the related prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein is accurate only as of its respective date or dates or on the date or dates specified in these documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements	ii
About This Prospectus	1
Luminent Mortgage Capital, Inc.	1
Summary of the Securities Offered by This Prospectus	4
Risk Factors	5
Use of Proceeds	20
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	20
Description of Capital Stock	21
Description of Debt Securities	30
Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and Our Charter and Bylaws	38
Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations	43
Plan of Distribution	54
Legal Matters	55
Experts	55
Where You Can Find More Information/Incorporation by Reference.	55

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, including any prospectus supplement, and the documents incorporated by reference herein contain certain forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are those that are not historical in nature. They can often be identified by the inclusion of words such as will, anticipate, estimate, should, expect, believe, inten similar expressions. Any projection of revenues, earnings or losses, distributions, capital structure or other financial terms is a forward-looking statement.

Our forward-looking statements are based upon our management s beliefs, assumptions and expectations of our future operations and economic performance, taking into account the information currently available to us. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, some of which are not currently known to us, that might cause our actual results, performance or financial condition to be materially different from the expectations of future results, performance or financial condition we express or imply in any forward-looking statement. Some of the important factors that could cause our actual results, performance or financial condition to differ materially from our expectations are:

interest rate mismatches between our mortgage-backed securities and the borrowings we use to fund our purchases of such securities;

changes in interest rates and mortgage prepayment rates;

our ability to obtain or renew sufficient funding to maintain our leverage strategies;

potential impacts of our leveraging policies on our net income and cash available for distribution;

our limited operating history and the limited experience of Seneca Capital Management LLC, our management company, in managing a real estate investment trust, or REIT;

the ability of our board of directors to change our operating policies and strategies without stockholder approval or notice to you;

effects of interest rate caps on our adjustable-rate and hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities;

the degree to which our hedging strategies may or may not protect us from interest rate volatility;

the fact that Seneca could be motivated to recommend riskier investments in an effort to maximize its incentive compensation under its management agreement with us;

potential conflicts of interest arising out of our relationship with Seneca, on the one hand, and Seneca s relationships with other third parties, on the other hand; and

our ability to invest up to 10% of our investment portfolio in lower-credit quality mortgage-backed securities that carry an increased likelihood of default or rating downgrade relative to investment-grade securities;

your inability to review the assets that we will acquire with the net proceeds of any securities we offer;

the other important factors described in this prospectus, including under the caption Risk Factors, in any prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated herein by reference.

We undertake no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. In light of these risks, uncertainties and assumptions, the events described in our forward-looking statements might not occur. We qualify all of our forward-looking statements by these cautionary factors. Please keep this cautionary note in mind as you read this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated herein by reference.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this process, we may offer and sell any combination of common stock, preferred stock, warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock and debt securities in one or more offerings for total proceeds of up to $500,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer to sell securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. We encourage you to read, in their entirety, this prospectus and any related prospectus supplement, as well as the information that is incorporated by reference herein. You should read this entire prospectus carefully, including the section titled Risk Factors before making an investment in our securities. As used in this prospectus, Luminent, company, we, our and us refer to Luminent Mortgage Capital, Inc. and Seneca, our M
and the Manager refer to Seneca Capital Management LLC, except where the context otherwise requires.

LUMINENT MORTGAGE CAPITAL, INC.

General

We were incorporated in April 2003 to invest primarily in U.S. agency and other highly-rated, single-family, adjustable-rate, hybrid adjustable-rate and fixed-rate mortgage-backed securities, which we acquire in the secondary market. Our strategy is to acquire mortgage-related assets, finance these purchases in the capital markets and use leverage in order to provide an attractive return on stockholders equity. Through this strategy, we seek to earn income, which is generated from the spread between the yield on our earning assets and our costs, including the interest cost of the funds we borrow. We operate as a REIT, and generally do not pay federal corporate income taxes on our income that is distributed to our stockholders.

We commenced operations in June 2003, following the completion of a private placement of our common stock, in which we raised net proceeds of approximately $159.7 million. On December 18, 2003, we completed an initial public offering of our common stock in which we raised net proceeds of approximately $157.0 million. On December 19, 2003, our common stock began trading on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the trading symbol LUM. On March 29, 2004, we completed a follow-on public offering of our common stock in which we raised net proceeds of approximately $157.5 million.

We invest primarily in adjustable-rate and hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities. Adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities have interest rates that reset periodically, typically every six months or on an annual basis. Hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities have interest rates that are fixed for the first few years of the loan typically three, five, seven or 10 years and thereafter reset periodically in a manner similar to adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities.

Unless otherwise indicated in an accompanying prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered by this prospectus and the related accompanying prospectus supplement and other borrowed funds to invest in mortgage-backed securities similar to those currently in our portfolio. We will seek to acquire mortgage-backed securities that will produce competitive returns, taking into consideration the amount and nature of the anticipated returns from the investment, our ability to pledge the investment for secured, collateralized borrowings and the costs associated with financing, managing, securitizing and reserving for these investments. As of the date of this prospectus, we have not identified any specific mortgage-backed securities that we intend to acquire with the net proceeds of this offering. All of the mortgage-backed securities that we acquired with the net proceeds of our initial public offering and our follow-on offering are agency-backed or have AAA credit ratings from at least one

nationally-recognized statistical rating agency, and all of the securities are either adjustable-rate or hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities. We expect that the substantial majority, or perhaps all of the mortgage-backed securities that we acquire with the net proceeds of this offering will be agency-backed or have AAA credit ratings. Such securities are readily available in the market. As of June 30, 2004, the market for residential mortgage debt that had been securitized into mortgage-backed securities was approximately $4.2 trillion, approximately $3.4 trillion of which was agency-backed and, therefore, generally consistent with our investment guidelines. As of June 30, 2004, approximately $69.8 billion of all available mortgage-backed securities were held by REITs.

We have financed our acquisition of mortgage-related assets by investing our equity and by borrowing at short-term rates under repurchase agreements. We intend to continue to finance our acquisitions in this manner. We generally seek to borrow between eight and 12 times the amount of our equity. We actively manage the adjustment periods and the selection of the interest rate indices of our borrowings against the adjustment periods and the selection of indices on our mortgage-related assets in order to manage our liquidity

and interest rate-related risks. We may also choose to engage in various hedging activities designed to match more closely the terms of our assets and liabilities.

As a long-term holder of mortgage-backed securities, we focus on acquiring, financing and managing a diverse portfolio of mortgage-backed securities with a variety of characteristics that we believe will provide attractive returns in a multitude of interest rate and prepayment environments. We do not construct our overall investment portfolio in order to express a directional expectation for interest rates or mortgage prepayment rates.

We review the credit risk associated with each potential investment and may diversify our portfolio to avoid undue geographic, guarantor, industry and other types of concentrations. By maintaining a large percentage of our assets in high-quality and highly-rated assets, many of which are guaranteed under limited circumstances as to payment of a limited amount of principal and interest by federal agencies or federally-chartered entities such as Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or Ginnie Mae, we believe we can mitigate our exposure to losses from credit risk.

In addition to the strategies described above, we intend to use other strategies to seek to generate earnings and distributions to our stockholders, which may include the following:

- increasing the size of our balance sheet at a rate faster than the rate of increase in our operating expenses;

- using leverage to increase the size of our balance sheet; and

- lowering our effective borrowing costs over time by seeking direct funding with collateralized lenders.

We are externally managed and advised by Seneca pursuant to a management agreement between Seneca and us. We have a full-time chief financial officer who is not employed by Seneca, and who provides us with dedicated financial management, analysis and investor relations capability.

We have elected to be taxed as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. As such, we will routinely distribute substantially all of the income generated from our operations to our stockholders. As long as we retain our REIT status, we generally will not be subject to U.S. federal or state corporate taxes on our income to the extent that we distribute our net income to our stockholders.

Our principal offices are located at 909 Montgomery Street, Suite 500, San Francisco, California 94133. Our telephone number is (415) 486-2110 and our website is www.luminentcapital.com. Information contained on our website does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

Seneca and Executive Officers

Our day-to-day operations are externally managed and advised by Seneca, subject to the direction and oversight of our board of directors. Seneca was established in 1989, and is an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. Seneca, whose sole business is investment management, manages fixed-income and equity assets for pension and profit-sharing plans, financial institutions, such as banking and insurance companies, and mutual funds for retail and institutional investors. Seneca had over 100 full-time employees and approximately $13 billion of institutional and private investment accounts on September 30, 2004.

From time to time, we will assess whether we should be internally managed. In May 2004, our board of directors formed a committee of independent directors to assess the advisability of internalization. We believe this on-going assessment will consider a number of factors, including, without limitation, our ability to attract and retain full-time employees, and the costs, expenses and potential efficiencies related to becoming internally managed.

A majority of Seneca s outstanding equity interests are owned by Phoenix Investment Partners, Ltd., or Phoenix. Phoenix is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Phoenix Companies, Inc. (NYSE: PNX). Our board of directors consists of seven members, five of whom are not affiliated with Seneca or Phoenix. Neither this prospectus nor any offering or sale of securities made through this prospectus and a related prospectus supplement are endorsed or guaranteed in any way by Seneca or Phoenix.

Table of Contents

Our executive officers have significant experience in providing investment advisory services, with an average of 17 years of experience. Prior to founding Seneca in 1989, Gail P. Seneca, our chief executive officer, spent two years as senior vice president of the Asset Management Division of Wells Fargo Bank, where she managed fixed-income assets in excess of $10 billion. Before joining Seneca as its fixed income chief investment officer, Albert J. Gutierrez, our president, spent two years as head of portfolio management, trading and investment systems at American General Investment Management, where he was responsible for approximately $75 billion in client assets, and 12 years with Conseco Capital Management as a senior vice president in charge of fixed income research and trading as well as insurance asset portfolio management. Other than our full-time chief financial officer, all of our executive officers are also employees and/or officers of Seneca, as described in the following table:

Name	Position with Seneca	Position with Us
Gail P. Seneca, Ph.D.	President/Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer	Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer
Albert J. Gutierrez, CFA	Fixed Income Chief Investment Officer and Principal	President and Director
Christopher J. Zyda	None	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Andrew S. Chow, CFA	Fixed Income Portfolio Manager	Senior Vice President

The Management Agreement

Pursuant to our management agreement, Seneca, as our sole manager, generally implements our business strategy, is responsible for our day-to-day operations and performs services and activities relating to our assets and operations in accordance with the terms of the management agreement. The management agreement will remain in effect until terminated. Seneca s services for us can be divided into the following three principal activities:

Asset Management Seneca advises us with respect to, arranges for and manages the acquisition, financing, management and disposition of, our investments.

Liability Management Seneca evaluates the credit risk and prepayment risk of our investments and arranges borrowing and hedging strategies.

Capital Management Seneca coordinates our capital raising activities.

In conducting these activities, Seneca advises us on the formulation of, and implements, our operating strategies and policies, arranges for our acquisition of assets, monitors the performance of our assets, arranges for various types of financing and hedging strategies and provides administrative and managerial services in connection with our operations. At all times in the performance of these activities, Seneca is subject to the direction and oversight of our board of directors.

Pursuant to the management agreement and a cost-sharing agreement between Seneca and us, Seneca may earn or be entitled to receive the following compensation, fees and other benefits:

Base management fee 1% per annum of the first $300 million of our average net worth, plus 0.8% per annum of our average net worth in excess of $300 million during such fiscal year, calculated on a quarterly basis.

Incentive compensation a specified percentage of our REIT taxable net income (before deducting incentive compensation, net operating losses and certain other items) in excess of a threshold amount of taxable income, calculated on a quarterly basis and subject to annual reconciliation.

Out-of-pocket expense reimbursements reimbursement of actual out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with our administration on an ongoing basis.

Reimbursement of overhead expenses reimbursement of actual costs attributable to our use of services rendered by Seneca pursuant to the cost-sharing agreement. Our portion of such costs is allocated to us as determined by Seneca, subject to reasonable approval by a majority of our independent directors.

Termination fee payable only upon termination by us without cause or by Seneca upon our change of control. Actual amount of fee depends on the circumstances of the termination.

For a more detailed discussion of the compensation and other fees payable to Seneca, as well as our and Seneca s right to terminate the management agreement, see the management agreement and cost-sharing agreement incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Conflicts of Interest

We are subject to potential conflicts of interest involving Seneca because, among other reasons:

- the incentive compensation, which is based on our net income, may create an incentive for Seneca to recommend investments with greater income potential, which may be relatively more risky than would be the case if its compensation from us did not include an incentive-based component;

- Seneca is permitted to purchase mortgage-backed securities for its own account and to advise accounts of other clients, and certain investment opportunities appropriate for us also will be appropriate for these accounts; and

- two of our directors, and all but one of our executive officers, are managers or employees of, or otherwise affiliated with, Seneca.

The management agreement does not limit or restrict the right of Seneca from engaging in any business or rendering services to any other person, including, without limitation, the purchase of, or rendering advice to others purchasing, mortgage-backed securities that meet our investment guidelines. However, Seneca has agreed that for as long as Seneca is our exclusive manager pursuant to the management agreement, it will not sponsor any other mortgage REIT that invests primarily in high-quality, residential mortgage-backed securities, without first obtaining the approval of a majority of our independent directors.

SUMMARY OF THE SECURITIES OFFERED BY THIS PROSPECTUS

We may offer any of the following securities from time to time:

- common stock;

- preferred stock;

- warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock; and

- debt securities.

When we use the term securities in this prospectus, we mean any of the securities we may offer with this prospectus, unless we indicate otherwise. The total dollar amount of all securities that we may issue will not exceed $500,000,000. This prospectus, including the following summary of the securities we may issue, describes the general terms of such securities. The specific terms of any particular securities we may offer will be described in a separate prospectus supplement.

Common Stock

We may offer shares of our common stock, which is currently traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol LUM . See Description of Capital Stock beginning on page 21 of this prospectus.

Preferred Stock

We may offer our preferred stock in one or more series. For any particular series we offer, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific designation; the aggregate number of shares offered; the rate and periods, or the method of calculating the rate and periods for dividends, if any; the stated value and liquidation preference, if any; the voting rights, if any; the terms on which

the series will be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities or property, if any; the redemption terms, if any and any other specific terms of the particular series of preferred stock. See Description of Capital Stock beginning on page 21 of this prospectus.

Warrants

We may offer warrants to purchase our common stock or preferred stock. For any warrants we offer, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the security underlying the warrant; the expiration date of the warrant; the exercise price or other method of determining the exercise price; the amount and kind, or the method of determining the amount and kind, of the security to be issued upon the exercise of the warrant and any other specific terms. See Description of Capital Stock Warrants beginning on page 27 of this prospectus.

Debt Securities

We may offer debt securities in one or more series. The debt securities will be our direct unsecured general obligations and may include debentures, notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any debt securities. See Description of Debt Securities beginning on page 30 of this prospectus.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves various risks. Before you decide to invest in our securities, you should consider carefully the following risk factors in connection with the other information in this prospectus, the prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference. Our business, financial condition or results of operations could be harmed if any of these risks or uncertainties actually occurs. In that event, the price of our securities could decline and you might lose all or part of your investment. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated by our forward-looking statements as a result of the risk factors described below, in any prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated herein by reference. These risks are not the only ones that may affect us. Additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial might also impair our business operations.

Risks Related to Our Business

Interest rate mismatches between our mortgage-backed securities and the borrowings used to fund our purchases of mortgage-backed securities might reduce our net income or result in losses during periods of changing interest rates.

We invest primarily in adjustable-rate and hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities. The mortgages underlying these adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities have interest rates that reset periodically, typically every six months or on an annual basis, based upon market-based indices of interest rates such as U.S. Treasury bonds or LIBOR, the interest rate that banks in London offer for deposits in London of U.S. dollars. The mortgages underlying hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities have interest rates that are fixed for the first few years of the loan typically three, five, seven or 10 years and thereafter their interest rates reset periodically similar to the mortgages underlying adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities. We have funded our acquisitions, and expect to fund our future acquisitions, of adjustable-rate and hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities in part with borrowings that have interest rates based on indices and repricing terms similar to, but with shorter maturities than, the interest rate indices and repricing terms of our adjustable-rate and hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities. During periods of changing interest rates, this interest rate mismatch between our assets and liabilities could reduce or

eliminate our net income and distributions to our stockholders and could cause us to suffer a loss.

Accordingly, in a period of rising interest rates, we could experience a decrease in, or elimination of, our net income or a net loss because the interest rates on our borrowings could increase faster than the interest rates on our adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities. Conversely, in a period of declining interest rates, we could experience a decrease in, or elimination of, our net income or a net loss because our amortization of premiums could increase.

Increased levels of prepayments on the mortgages underlying our mortgage-backed securities might decrease our net interest income or result in a net loss.

The mortgage-backed securities that we acquire generally represent interests in pools of mortgage loans. The principal and interest payments we receive from our mortgage-backed securities are generally funded by the payments that mortgage borrowers

Table of Contents

make on those underlying mortgage loans. When borrowers prepay their mortgage loans sooner than expected, corresponding prepayments on the mortgage-backed securities occur sooner than expected by the marketplace. Sooner-than-expected prepayments could harm our results of operations in the following ways, among others:

We seek to purchase mortgage-backed securities that we believe to have favorable risk-adjusted expected returns relative to market interest rates at the time of purchase. If the coupon interest rate for a mortgage-backed security is higher than the market interest rate at the time it is purchased, then that mortgage-backed security will be acquired at a premium to its par value.

In accordance with applicable accounting rules, we are required to amortize any premiums or accrete discounts related to our mortgage-backed securities over their expected terms. The amortization of a premium reduces interest income, while the accretion of a discount increases interest income. The expected terms for mortgage-backed securities are a function of the prepayment rates for the mortgages underlying the mortgage-backed securities. Mortgage-backed securities that are at a premium to their par value are more likely to experience prepayment of some or all of their principal through refinancings. If the mortgages underlying our mortgage-backed securities purchased at a premium are prepaid in whole or in part more quickly than their respective maturity dates, then we must also amortize their respective premiums more quickly, which would decrease our net interest income and harm our profitability.

A substantial portion of our adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities may bear interest at rates that are lower than their fully-indexed rates, which refers to their applicable index rates plus a margin. If an adjustable-rate mortgage-backed security is prepaid prior to or soon after the time of adjustment to a fully-indexed rate, we will have held that mortgage-backed security while it was less profitable and lost the opportunity to receive interest at the fully-indexed rate over the remainder of its expected life.

If we are unable to acquire new mortgage-backed securities to replace the prepaid mortgage-backed securities, our financial condition, results of operations and cash flow may suffer and we could incur losses.

Prepayment rates generally increase when interest rates decline and decrease when interest rates rise; however, changes in prepayment rates may lag behind changes in interest rates and are difficult to predict. Prepayment rates also may be affected by other factors, including, without limitation, conditions in the housing and financial markets, general economic conditions and the relative interest rates on adjustable-rate and fixed-rate mortgage loans. While we seek to minimize prepayment risk, we must balance prepayment risk against other risks and the potential returns of each investment when selecting investments. No strategy can completely insulate us from prepayment or other such risks.

We depend on short-term borrowings to purchase mortgage-related assets and reach our desired amount of leverage. If we fail to obtain or renew sufficient funding on favorable terms or at all, we will be limited in our ability to acquire mortgage-related assets, which will harm our results of operations.

We depend on short-term borrowings to fund acquisitions of mortgage-related assets and reach our desired amount of leverage. Accordingly, our ability to achieve our investment and leverage objectives depends on our ability to borrow money in sufficient amounts and on favorable terms. In addition, we must be able to renew or replace our maturing short-term borrowings on a continuous basis. We depend on a few lenders to provide the primary credit facilities for our purchases of mortgage-related assets. In addition, our existing indebtedness may limit our ability to make additional borrowings. If our lenders do not allow us to renew our borrowings or we cannot replace maturing borrowings on favorable terms or at all, we might have to sell our mortgage-related assets under adverse market conditions, which would harm our results of operations and may result in losses.

Our leverage strategy increases the risks of our operations, which could reduce our net income and the amount available for distributions or cause us to suffer a loss.

We generally seek to borrow between eight and 12 times the amount of our equity, although at times our borrowings may be above or below this amount. We incur this indebtedness by borrowing against a substantial portion of the market value of our mortgage-backed securities. Our total indebtedness, however, is not expressly limited by our policies and depends on our and our prospective lender s estimate of the stability of our portfolio s cash flow. We face the risk that we might not be able to meet our debt service obligations or a lender s margin requirements from our income and, to the extent we cannot, we might be forced to liquidate some of our assets at disadvantageous prices. Our use of leverage amplifies the risks associated with other risk factors, which could reduce our net income and the amount available for distributions or cause us to suffer a loss. For example:

A majority of our borrowings are secured by our mortgage-backed securities, generally under repurchase agreements. A decline in the market value of our mortgage-backed securities used to secure these debt obligations could limit our ability to borrow or result in lenders requiring us to pledge additional collateral to secure our borrowings. In that situation, we could be required to sell mortgage-backed securities under adverse market conditions in order to obtain the additional collateral required by the lender. If these sales are made at prices lower than the carrying value of our mortgage-backed securities, we would experience losses.

A default under a mortgage-related asset that constitutes collateral for a loan could also result in an involuntary liquidation of the mortgage-related asset, including any cross-collateralized mortgage-backed securities. This circumstance would result in a loss to us to the extent that the value of our mortgage-related asset upon liquidation is less than the amount we borrowed against the mortgage-related asset.

To the extent we are compelled to liquidate qualified REIT assets to repay our debts or further collateralize them, our compliance with the REIT rules regarding our assets and our sources of income could be negatively affected, which could jeopardize our status as a REIT. Losing our REIT status would cause us to lose tax advantages applicable to REITs and would decrease our overall profitability and our distributions to our stockholders.

If we experience losses as a result of our leverage policy, such losses would reduce the amounts available for distribution to our stockholders.

We may incur increased borrowing costs related to repurchase agreements that would harm our results of operations.

Our borrowing costs under repurchase agreements are generally adjustable and correspond to short-term interest rates, such as LIBOR or a short-term Treasury index, plus or minus a margin. The margins on these borrowings over or under short-term interest rates may vary depending upon a number of factors, including, without limitation, the following:

- the movement of interest rates;
- the availability of financing in the market; and
- the value and liquidity of our mortgage-backed securities.

Most of our borrowings are collateralized borrowings in the form of repurchase agreements. If the interest rates on these repurchase agreements increases, our results of operations will be harmed and we may have losses.

We have only been in business since June 2003 and our implementation of our operating policies and strategies may not continue to be successful.

We began operations in June 2003, and therefore have a limited operating history. Our results of operations depend on many factors, including the availability of opportunities to acquire mortgage-related assets, the level and volatility of interest rates, readily accessible short- and long-term funding alternatives in the financial markets and economic conditions. Moreover, delays in fully leveraging and investing the net proceeds of our public offerings may cause our performance to be weaker than other fully leveraged and invested mortgage REITs pursuing comparable investment strategies. Furthermore, we face the risk that our implementation of our operating policies and strategies may not continue to be successful.

Our board of directors may change our operating policies and strategies without stockholder approval or prior notice and such changes could harm our business and results of operations and the value of our stock.

Our board of directors has the authority to modify or waive our current operating policies and our strategies, including our election to operate as a REIT, without prior notice and without stockholder approval. We cannot predict the effect any changes to our current operating policies and strategies would have on our business, operating results and value of our stock. However, the effects might be adverse.

We depend on our key personnel, and the loss of any of our key personnel could severely and detrimentally affect our operations.

We depend on the diligence, experience and skill of our officers and the Seneca personnel who provide management services to us for the selection, acquisition, structuring, monitoring and sale of our mortgage-related assets and the borrowings used to acquire these assets. Our key officers include Gail P. Seneca, Albert J. Gutierrez, Christopher J. Zyda and Andrew S. Chow. We have not entered into employment agreements with our key officers other than Mr. Zyda, who is our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. With the exception of Mr. Zyda, none of our senior officers, including Ms. Seneca and Messrs. Gutierrez and Chow, devote all of their business time to our business and are free to engage in competitive activities in our industry. In addition, our management agreement with Seneca pursuant to which Ms. Seneca and Messrs. Gutierrez and Chow provide management services to us is terminable by Seneca at any time upon 60 days notice. The loss of our key officers or the termination of our management agreement with Seneca could harm our business, financial condition, cash flow and results of operations.

Competition might prevent us from acquiring mortgage-backed securities at favorable yields, which would harm our results of operations.

Our net income depends on our ability to acquire mortgage-backed securities at favorable spreads over our borrowing costs. In acquiring mortgage-backed securities, we compete with other REITs, investment banking firms, savings and loan associations, banks, insurance companies, mutual funds, other lenders and other entities that purchase mortgage-backed securities, many of which have greater financial resources than we do. As a result, we may not be able to acquire sufficient mortgage-backed securities at favorable spreads over our borrowing costs, which would harm our results of operations.

Interest rate caps related to our mortgage-backed securities may reduce our net income or cause us to suffer a loss during periods of rising interest rates.

The mortgages underlying our mortgage-backed securities are typically subject to periodic and lifetime interest rate caps. Periodic interest rate caps limit the amount that the interest rate of a mortgage can increase during any given period. Lifetime interest rate caps limit the amount an interest rate can increase through the maturity of a mortgage.

Our borrowings are not subject to similar restrictions. The periodic adjustments to the interest rates of the mortgages underlying our mortgage-backed securities are based on changes in an objective index. Substantially all of the mortgages underlying our mortgage-backed securities adjust their interest rates based on one of two main indices, the U.S. Treasury index, which is a monthly or weekly average yield of benchmark U.S. Treasury securities published by the Federal Reserve Board, or LIBOR.

Accordingly, in a period of rapidly increasing interest rates, the interest rates paid on our borrowings could increase without limitation while interest rate caps could limit the increases in the yields on our mortgage-backed securities. This problem is magnified for mortgage-backed securities that are not fully indexed. Further, some of the mortgages underlying our mortgage-backed securities may be subject to periodic payment caps that result in a portion of the interest being deferred and added to the principal outstanding. As a result, we may receive less cash income on our mortgage-backed securities than we need to pay interest on our related borrowings. These factors could reduce our net interest income or cause us to suffer a net loss.

We might experience reduced net interest income or a loss from holding fixed-rate investments during periods of rising interest rates.

A significant portion of our investment portfolio consists of hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities. We may also invest in fixed-rate mortgage-backed securities from time to time. We fund our acquisition of fixed-rate mortgage-backed securities, including those based on balloon maturity and hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages, in part with short-term repurchase agreements and term loans. During periods of rising interest rates, our costs associated with borrowings used to fund the acquisition of fixed-rate mortgage-backed securities are subject to increases, while the income we earn from these assets remains substantially fixed. The reduction or elimination of the net interest spread between the fixed-rate mortgage-backed securities that we purchase and our borrowings used to purchase them would reduce our net interest income and could cause us to suffer a loss.

We might not be able to use derivatives to mitigate our interest rate and prepayment risks.

Our policies permit us to enter into interest rate swaps, caps and floors and other derivative transactions in an effort to reduce our interest rate and prepayment risks. These transactions might mitigate our interest rate and prepayment risks, but cannot eliminate these risks. Moreover, the use of derivative transactions could have a negative impact on our net income and our status as a REIT and, therefore, our use of such derivatives could be limited.

We may enter into ineffective derivative transactions or other hedging activities that may reduce our net interest rate spread or cause us to suffer losses.

Our policies permit us, but we are not required, to enter into derivative transactions such as interest rate swaps, caps and floors and other derivative transactions to help us seek to reduce our interest rate and prepayment risks. The effectiveness of any derivative transaction will depend significantly upon whether we correctly quantify the interest rate or prepayment risks being hedged, our execution of and ongoing monitoring of our hedging activities and the treatment of such hedging activities under generally accepted accounting principles in the United States, or GAAP.

In the case of these hedges, and any other efforts to mitigate the effects of interest rate changes on our liability costs, if we enter into hedging instruments that have higher interest rates embedded in them as a result of the forward yield curve, and at the end of the term of these hedging instruments the spot market interest rates for the liabilities that we hedged are actually lower, then we will have locked in higher interest rates for our liabilities than would be available in the spot market at the time which could result in a narrowing of our net interest rate spread or result in losses. In some situations, we may sell assets or hedging instruments at a loss in order to maintain adequate liquidity.

In addition, we apply Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, as amended and interpreted, and record derivatives at fair value. If the derivatives meet the criteria to be accounted for as hedging transactions, the effects of the transactions could be materially different as to timing than if they do not qualify as hedges, which may cause a narrowing of our net interest rate spread or result in losses.

An increase in interest rates might adversely affect our book value.

We use changes in 10-year U.S. Treasury yields as a reference indicator for changes in interest rates because it is a common market benchmark. Increases in the general level of interest rates can cause the fair market value of our assets to decline, particularly those mortgage-backed securities whose underlying mortgages have fixed-rate components. Our fixed-rate mortgage-backed securities and our hybrid adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities (during the fixed-rate component of the mortgages underlying such securities) will generally be more negatively affected by such increases than our adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities. In accordance with GAAP, we will be required to reduce the carrying value of our mortgage-backed securities by the amount of any decrease in the fair value of our mortgage-backed securities compared to their respective amortized costs. If unrealized losses in fair value occur, we will have to either reduce current earnings or reduce stockholders equity without immediately affecting current earnings, depending on how we classify such mortgage-backed securities under GAAP. In either case, our net book value will decrease to the extent of any realized or unrealized losses in fair value.

We may invest in leveraged mortgage derivative securities that generally experience greater volatility in market prices, and thus expose us to greater risk with respect to their rate of return.

We may acquire leveraged mortgage derivative securities that expose us to a high level of interest rate risk. The characteristics of leveraged mortgage derivative securities cause those securities to experience greater volatility in their market prices. Thus, acquisition of leveraged mortgage derivative securities will expose us to the risk of greater

volatility in our portfolio, which could reduce our net income and harm our overall results of operations.

Possible market developments could cause our lenders to require us to pledge additional assets as collateral. If our assets are insufficient to meet the collateral requirements, we might be compelled to liquidate particular assets at inopportune times and at disadvantageous prices.

Possible market developments, including a sharp or prolonged rise in interest rates, an increase in prepayment rates or increasing market concern about the value or liquidity of one or more types of mortgage-backed securities in which our portfolio is concentrated, might reduce the market value of our portfolio, which might cause our lenders to require additional collateral. Any requirement for

additional collateral might compel us to liquidate our assets at inopportune times and at disadvantageous prices, thereby harming our operating results. If we sell our mortgage-backed securities at prices lower than their carrying value, we would experience losses.

Because the assets that we acquire might experience periods of illiquidity, we might be prevented from selling our mortgage-related assets at opportune times and prices.

We bear the risk of being unable to dispose of our mortgage-related assets at advantageous times and prices or in a timely manner because mortgage-related assets generally experience periods of illiquidity. The lack of liquidity might result from the absence of a willing buyer or an established market for these assets, as well as legal or contractual restrictions on resale. If we are unable to sell our mortgage-related assets at opportune times, we might suffer a loss and/or reduce our distributions.

We remain subject to losses despite our strategy of investing in highly-rated mortgage-backed securities.

Our investment guidelines provide that at least 90% of our assets must be invested in mortgage-backed securities that are either agency-backed or are rated at least investment grade by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating agency. While highly-rated mortgage-backed securities are generally subject to a lower risk of default than lower credit quality mortgage-backed securities and may benefit from third-party credit enhancements such as insurance or corporate guarantees, there is no assurance that such mortgage-backed securities will not be subject to credit losses. Furthermore, ratings are subject to change over time as a result of a number of factors, including greater than expected delinquencies, defaults or credit losses or a deterioration in the financial strength of corporate guarantors, any of which may reduce the market value of such securities. Furthermore, ratings do not take into account the reasonableness of the issue price, interest risks, prepayment risks, extension risks or other risks associated with such mortgage-backed securities. As a result, while we attempt to mitigate our exposure to credit risk on a relative basis by focusing on highly-rated mortgage-backed securities, we cannot eliminate such credit risks and remain subject to other risks to our investment portfolio and may suffer losses, which may harm the market price of our common stock.

Our investment guidelines permit us to invest up to 10% of our assets in unrated mortgage-related assets and mortgage-backed securities rated below investment-grade, which carry a greater likelihood of default or rating downgrade than investments in investment-grade mortgage-backed securities and may cause us to suffer losses.

Our investment guidelines allow us to invest up to 10% of our assets in lower credit quality mortgage-related assets, including mortgage-backed securities that are not rated at least investment grade by at least one nationally-recognized statistical rating organization, and other investments such as leveraged mortgage derivative securities, shares of other REITs, mortgage loans or other mortgage-related investments. If we acquire non-investment-grade mortgage-backed securities, which may include residual mortgage-backed securities, we are more likely to incur losses because the mortgages underlying those securities are made to borrowers possessing lower-quality credit. While all mortgage-backed securities are subject to a risk of default, that risk is greater with non-investment grade mortgage-backed securities. In addition, the rating agencies are more likely to downgrade the credit quality of those securities, which would reduce the value of those securities.

Our use of repurchase agreements to borrow funds may give our lenders greater rights in the event that either we or any of our lenders file for bankruptcy.

Our borrowings under repurchase agreements may qualify for special treatment under the bankruptcy code, giving our lenders the ability to avoid the automatic stay provisions of the bankruptcy code and to take possession of and liquidate our collateral under the repurchase agreements without delay if we file for bankruptcy. Furthermore, the

special treatment of repurchase agreements under the bankruptcy code may make it difficult for us to recover our pledged assets in the event that any of our lenders files for bankruptcy. Thus, the use of repurchase agreements exposes our pledged assets to risk in the event of a bankruptcy filing by any of our lenders or us.

Defaults on the mortgage loans underlying our mortgage-backed securities may reduce the value of our investment portfolio and may harm our results of operations.

We bear the risk of any losses resulting from any defaults on the mortgage loans underlying the mortgage-backed securities in our investment portfolio. Many of the mortgage-backed securities that we acquire have one or more forms of credit enhancement provided by third parties, such as insurance against risk of loss due to default on the underlying mortgage loans or bankruptcy, fraud and special hazard losses. To the extent that third parties have agreed to insure against these types of losses, the value of such insurance will depend in part on the creditworthiness and claims-paying ability of the insurer and the timeliness of reimbursement in

the event of a default on the underlying obligations. Further, the insurance coverage for various types of losses is limited in amount, and we would bear losses in excess of these limitations.

Other mortgage-backed securities that we purchase are subject to limited guarantees of the payment of limited amounts of principal and interest on mortgage loans underlying such mortgage-backed securities, either by federal government agencies, including Ginnie Mae, by federally-chartered corporations, including Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, or by other corporate guarantors. While Ginnie Mae s obligations are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, the obligations of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and other corporate guarantors are solely their own. As a result, a substantial deterioration in the financial strength of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or other corporate guarantors could increase our exposure to future delinquencies, defaults or credit losses on our holdings of Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac-backed mortgage-backed securities or other corporate-backed mortgage-backed securities, and could harm our results of operations. In addition, while Freddie Mac guarantees the eventual payment of principal, it does not guarantee the timely payment thereof, and our results of operations may be harmed if borrowers are late or delinquent in their payments on mortgages underlying Freddie Mac-backed mortgage-backed securities. Moreover, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Ginnie Mae and other corporate guarantees relate only to payments of limited amounts of principal and interest on the mortgages underlying such agency-backed or corporate-backed securities, and do not guarantee the market value of such mortgage-backed securities or the yields on such mortgage-backed securities. As a result, we remain subject to interest rate risks, prepayment risks, extension risks and other risks associated with our investment in such mortgage-backed securities and may experience losses in our investment portfolio.

Decreases in the value of the property underlying our mortgage-backed securities might decrease the value of our assets.

The mortgage-backed securities in which we invest are secured by underlying real property interests. To the extent that the value of the property underlying our mortgage-backed securities decreases, our security might be impaired, which might decrease the value of our assets.

Insurance will not cover all potential losses on the underlying real property and the absence thereof may harm the value of our assets.

Under our asset acquisition policy, we are permitted to invest up to a maximum of 10% of our total assets in assets other than agency-backed securities, or rated as at least investment grade by a nationally recognized statistical rating agency. Mortgage loans that fall outside of this category of investments under our investment guidelines are subject to the 10% limitation. If we elect to purchase mortgage loans, we may require that each of the mortgage loans that we purchase include comprehensive insurance covering the underlying real property, including liability, fire and extended coverage. Certain types of losses, however, generally of a catastrophic nature, such as earthquakes, floods and hurricanes, may be uninsurable or not economically insurable. Inflation, changes in building codes and ordinances, environmental considerations and other factors might also make it infeasible to use insurance proceeds to replace a property if it is damaged or destroyed. Under such circumstances, the insurance proceeds, if any, might not be adequate to restore the economic value of the underlying real property, which might impair our security and decrease the value of our assets.

Distressed mortgage loans have a higher risk of future default.

If we elect to purchase mortgage loans, we may purchase distressed mortgage loans as well as mortgage loans that have had a history of delinquencies. These distressed mortgage loans may be in default or may have a greater than normal risk of future defaults and delinquencies, compared to a pool of newly-originated, high quality loans of comparable type, size and geographic concentration. Returns on an investment of this type depend on accurate pricing of such investment, the borrower s ability to make required payments or, in the event of default, the ability of the loan s

servicer to foreclose and liquidate the mortgage loan. We cannot assure you that the servicer will be able to liquidate a defaulted mortgage loan in a cost-effective manner, at an advantageous price or in a timely manner.

Subordinated loans on real estate are subject to higher risks.

If we elect to purchase mortgage loans, we may acquire loans secured by commercial properties, including loans that are subordinated to first liens on the underlying commercial real estate. Subordinated mortgage loans are subject to greater risks of loss than first lien mortgage loans. An overall decline in the real estate market could reduce the value of the real property securing such loans such that the aggregate outstanding balance of the second-lien loan and the outstanding balance of the more senior loan on the real property exceed the value of the real property.

Risks Related to Seneca

We pay Seneca incentive compensation based on our portfolio s performance. This arrangement may lead Seneca to recommend riskier or more speculative investments in an effort to maximize its incentive compensation.

In addition to its base management fee, Seneca earns incentive compensation for each fiscal quarter equal to a specified percentage of the amount by which our taxable income, before deducting incentive compensation, exceeds a return on equity based on the 10-year U.S. Treasury rate plus 2%. The percentage for this calculation is the weighted-average of the following percentages based on our average net invested assets for the fiscal quarter:

20% for the first $400 million of our average net invested assets; and

10% of our average net invested assets in excess of $400 million.

Pursuant to the formula for calculating Seneca s incentive compensation, Seneca shares in our profits but not in our losses. Consequently, as Seneca evaluates different mortgage-backed securities and other investments for our account, there is a risk that Seneca will cause us to assume more risk than is prudent in an attempt to increase its incentive compensation. Other key criteria related to determining appropriate investments and investment strategies, including the preservation of capital, might be under-weighted if Seneca focuses exclusively or disproportionately on maximizing its incentive income from us.

We may be obligated to pay Seneca incentive compensation even if we incur a loss.

Pursuant to the management agreement, Seneca is entitled to receive incentive compensation for each fiscal quarter in an amount equal to a tiered percentage of the excess of our taxable income for that quarter (before deducting incentive compensation, net operating losses and certain other items) above a threshold return for that quarter. In addition, the management agreement further provides that our taxable income for incentive compensation purposes excludes net capital losses that we may incur in the fiscal quarter, even if such capital losses result in us incurring net loss for that quarter. Thus, we may be required to pay Seneca incentive compensation for a fiscal quarter even if there is a decline in the value of our portfolio or we incur a net loss for that quarter.

Because Seneca is entitled to a significant fee if we terminate the management agreement, economic considerations might preclude us from terminating the management agreement in the event that Seneca fails to meet our expectations.

From time to time, we will assess whether we should be internally managed. In May 2004, our board of directors formed a committee of independent directors to assess the advisability of internalization and this assessment is currently ongoing. If we terminate the management agreement without cause or because we decide to manage our company internally or if Seneca terminates the management in the event of a change of control, then we will have to pay a significant fee to Seneca. The amount of the fee depends on whether:

we terminate the management agreement without cause in connection with a decision to manage our portfolio internally, in which case we will be obligated to pay to Seneca a fee equal to the highest amount of management fee incurred in a particular year during the then three most recent years; or

our decision to terminate the management agreement without cause is for a reason other than our decision to manage our portfolio internally, in which case we will be obligated to pay Seneca an amount equal to two times the highest amount of management fee incurred in a particular year during the then three most recent years.

In each of the above cases, Seneca will also receive accelerated vesting of the stock component of its incentive compensation. The actual amount of such fee cannot be known at this time because it is based in part on the performance of our portfolio of mortgage-backed securities. Paying this fee would reduce significantly the cash available for distribution to our stockholders and might cause us to suffer a net operating loss. Consequently, terminating the management agreement might not be advisable even if we determine that it would be more efficient to operate with an internal management structure or if we are otherwise dissatisfied with Seneca s performance.

Seneca s liability is limited under the management agreement, and we have agreed to indemnify Seneca against certain liabilities.

Seneca has not assumed any responsibility to us other than to render the services described in the management agreement, and is not responsible for any action of our board of directors in declining to follow Seneca s advice or recommendations. Seneca and its directors, officers and employees will not be liable to us for acts performed by its officers, directors or employees in accordance with and pursuant to the management agreement, except for acts constituting gross negligence, recklessness, willful misconduct or active fraud in connection with their duties under the management agreement. We have agreed to indemnify Seneca and its directors, officers and employees with respect to all expenses, losses, damages, liabilities, demands, charges and claims arising from acts of Seneca not constituting gross negligence, recklessness, willful misconduct or active fraud.

Seneca might allocate mortgage-related opportunities to other entities, and thus might divert attractive investment opportunities away from us.

Our operations and assets are managed by specified individuals at Seneca. Seneca and those individuals, including some of our officers, manage mortgage and other portfolios for parties unrelated to us. These multiple responsibilities might create conflicts of interest for Seneca and these individuals if they are presented with opportunities that might benefit us and Seneca s other clients. Seneca and these individuals must allocate investments among our portfolio and their other clients by determining the entity or account for which the investment is most suitable. In making this determination, Seneca and these individuals consider the investment strategy and guidelines of each entity or account with respect to the acquisition of assets, leverage, liquidity and other factors that Seneca and these individuals determine to be appropriate. However, Seneca and those working on its behalf have no obligation to make any specific investment opportunities available to us and the above-mentioned conflicts of interest might result in decisions or allocations of investments that are not in our or our stockholders best interests.

Seneca may render services to other mortgage investors, which could reduce the amount of time and effort that Seneca devotes to us.

Our management agreement with Seneca does not restrict the right of Seneca or any persons working on its behalf to carry on their respective businesses, including the rendering of advice to others regarding the purchase of mortgage-backed securities that would meet our investment criteria. In addition, the management agreement does not specify a minimum time period that Seneca and its personnel must devote to managing our investments. The ability of Seneca to engage in these other business activities, and specifically to manage mortgage-related assets for third parties, could reduce the time and effort it spends managing our portfolio to the detriment of our investment returns.

Seneca has significant influence over our affairs, and might cause us to engage in transactions that are not in our or our stockholders best interests.

In addition to managing us and having two of its officers as members of our board, Seneca provides advice on our operating policies and strategies. Seneca may also cause us to engage in future transactions with Seneca and its affiliates, subject to the approval of, or guidelines approved by, the independent members of our board of directors. Our directors, however, rely primarily on information supplied by Seneca in reaching their determinations. Accordingly, Seneca has significant influence over our affairs, and may cause us to engage in transactions that are not in our or our stockholders best interests.

Seneca has limited experience managing a REIT and we cannot assure you that Seneca s past experience will be sufficient to manage our business as a REIT successfully.

Seneca has limited experience managing a REIT, and limited experience in complying with the income, asset and other limitations imposed by the REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. Those provisions are complex and the failure to comply with those provisions in a timely manner could cause us to lose our qualification as a REIT or could force us to pay unexpected taxes and penalties. In such event, our net income would be reduced and we could incur a loss.

During periods of declining market prices for our common stock, we may be required to issue greater numbers of shares to Seneca for the same amount of incentive compensation arising under the management agreement, which will have a dilutive effect on our stockholders that may harm the market price of our common stock.

Pursuant to the terms of the management agreement, the incentive compensation payable to Seneca for each fiscal quarter is paid one-half in cash and one-half in restricted shares of our common stock. The number of shares to be issued to Seneca is based on (a) one-half of the total incentive compensation for the period, divided by (b) the average of the closing prices of our common stock over the 30-day period ending three calendar days prior to the grant date, less a fair market value discount determined by our board of directors on a quarterly basis. During periods of declining market prices of our common stock, we may be required to issue more shares to Seneca for the same amount of incentive compensation. Although these shares are subject to restrictions on transfer that lapse ratably over a three-year period, the issuance of these shares will have a dilutive effect on our stockholders that may harm the market price of our common stock.

Investors may not be able to estimate with certainty the aggregate fees and expense reimbursements that will be paid to Seneca under the management agreement and the cost-sharing agreement due to the time and manner in which Seneca s incentive compensation and expense reimbursements are determined.

Seneca may be entitled to substantial fees pursuant to the management agreement. Seneca s base management fee is calculated as a percentage of our average net worth. Seneca s incentive compensation is calculated as a tiered percentage of our taxable income, before deducting certain items, in excess of a threshold amount of taxable income and is indeterminable in advance of a particular period. Since future payments of base management fees, incentive compensation and expense reimbursements are determined at future dates based upon our then-applicable average net worth, results of operations and actual expenses incurred by Seneca, such fees and expense reimbursements cannot be estimated with mathematical certainty. Any base management fees, incentive compensation or expense reimbursements payable to Seneca may be materially greater or less than the historical amounts and we can provide no assurance at this time as to the amount of any such base management fee, incentive compensation or expense reimbursements that may be payable to Seneca in the future.

Legal and Tax Risks

If we are disqualified as a REIT, we will be subject to tax as a regular corporation and face substantial tax liability.

Qualification as a REIT involves the application of highly technical and complex U.S. federal income tax code provisions for which only a limited number of judicial or administrative interpretations exist. Accordingly, it is not certain we will be able to remain qualified as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Even a technical or inadvertent mistake could jeopardize our REIT status. Furthermore, Congress or the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS), might change tax laws or regulations and the courts might issue new rulings, in each case potentially having retroactive effect, that could make it more difficult or impossible for us to qualify as a REIT in a particular tax year. If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any tax year, then:

- we would be taxed as a regular domestic corporation, which, among other things, means that we would be unable to deduct distributions to our stockholders in computing taxable income and we would be subject to U.S. federal income tax on our taxable income at regular corporate rates;

- any resulting tax liability could be substantial, would reduce the amount of cash available for distribution to our stockholders and could force us to liquidate assets at inopportune times, causing lower income or higher losses than would result if these assets were not liquidated; and

unless we were entitled to relief under applicable statutory provisions, we would be disqualified from treatment as a REIT for the subsequent four taxable years following the year during which we lost our qualification and, thus, our cash available for distribution to our stockholders would be reduced for each of the years during which we did not qualify as a REIT.

Even if we remain qualified as a REIT, we might face other tax liabilities that reduce our cash flow. Further, we might be subject to federal, state and local taxes on our income and property. Any of these taxes would decrease cash available for distribution to our stockholders.

Table of Contents

Complying with the REIT requirements might cause us to forego otherwise attractive opportunities.

In order to qualify as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes, we must satisfy tests concerning, among other things, our sources of income, the nature and diversification of our mortgage-backed securities, the amounts we distribute to our stockholders and the ownership of our stock. We may also be required to make distributions to our stockholders at disadvantageous times or when we do not have funds readily available for distribution. Thus, compliance with REIT requirements may cause us to forego opportunities we would otherwise pursue.

In addition, the REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code impose a 100% tax on income from prohibited transactions. Prohibited transactions generally include sales of assets that constitute inventory or other property held for sale in the ordinary course of a business, other than foreclosure property. This 100% tax could impact our desire to sell mortgage-backed securities at otherwise opportune times if we believe such sales could be considered a prohibited transaction.

Complying with the REIT requirements may limit our ability to hedge effectively.

The existing REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code substantially limit our ability to hedge mortgage-backed securities and related borrowings. Under these provisions, our annual income from qualified hedges, together with any other income not generated from qualified REIT real estate assets, is limited to less than 25% of our gross income. In addition, we must limit our aggregate income from hedging and services from all sources, other than from qualified REIT real estate assets or qualified hedges, to less than 5% of our annual gross income. As a result, we might in the future have to limit our use of advantageous hedging techniques, which could leave us exposed to greater risks associated with changes in interest rates than we would otherwise want to bear. If we fail to satisfy the 25% or 5% limitations, unless our failure was due to reasonable cause and we meet certain other technical requirements, we could lose our REIT status for federal income tax purposes. Even if our failure were due to reasonable cause, we might have to pay a penalty tax equal to the amount of our income in excess of certain thresholds, multiplied by a fraction intended to reflect our profitability.

Complying with the REIT requirements may force us to borrow to make distributions to our stockholders.

As a REIT, we must distribute 90% of our annual taxable income (subject to certain adjustments) to our stockholders. From time to time, we might generate taxable income greater than our net income for financial reporting purposes from, among other things, amortization of capitalized purchase premiums, or our taxable income might be greater than our cash flow available for distribution to our stockholders. If we do not have other funds available in these situations, we might be unable to distribute 90% of our taxable income as required by the REIT rules. In that case, we would need to borrow funds, sell a portion of our mortgage-backed securities potentially at disadvantageous prices or find another alternative source of funds. These alternatives could increase our costs or reduce our equity and reduce amounts available to invest in mortgage-backed securities.

Complying with the REIT requirements may force us to liquidate otherwise attractive investments.

In order to qualify as a REIT, we must ensure that at the end of each calendar quarter at least 75% of the value of our assets consists of cash, cash items, government securities and qualified REIT real estate assets. The remainder of our investment in securities generally cannot include more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer or more than 10% of the total value of the outstanding securities of any one issuer. In addition, generally, no more than 5% of the value of our assets can consist of the securities of any one issuer. If we fail to comply with these requirements, we could lose our REIT status unless we are able to avail ourselves of certain relief provisions. Under certain relief provisions, we would be subject to penalty taxes.

Failure to maintain an exemption from the Investment Company Act would harm our results of operations.

We intend to conduct our business so as not to become regulated as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. If we fail to qualify for this exemption, our ability to use leverage would be substantially reduced and we would be unable to conduct our business as described in this prospectus.

The Investment Company Act exempts entities that are primarily engaged in the business of purchasing or otherwise acquiring mortgages and other liens on, and interests in, real estate. Under the current interpretation of the SEC, in order to qualify for this exemption, we must maintain at least 55% of our assets directly in these qualifying real estate interests. Mortgage-backed securities that do not represent all of the certificates issued with respect to an underlying pool of mortgages may be treated as separate from the

underlying mortgage loans and, thus, may not qualify for purposes of the 55% requirement. Therefore, our ownership of these mortgage-backed securities is limited by the provisions of the Investment Company Act.

In satisfying the 55% requirement under the Investment Company Act, we treat as qualifying interests mortgage-backed securities issued with respect to an underlying pool as to which we hold all issued certificates. If the SEC adopts a contrary interpretation of such treatment, we could be required to sell a substantial amount of our mortgage-backed securities under potentially adverse market conditions. Further, in our attempts to ensure that we at all times qualify for the exemption under the Investment Company Act, we might be precluded from acquiring mortgage-backed securities if their yield is higher than the yield on mortgage-backed securities that could be purchased in a manner consistent with the exemption. These factors may lower or eliminate our net income.

Misplaced reliance on legal opinions or statements by issuers of mortgage-backed securities could result in a failure to comply with the REIT income or assets tests.

When purchasing mortgage-backed securities, we may rely on opinions of counsel for the issuer or sponsor of such securities, or statements made in related offering documents, for purposes of determining whether and to what extent those securities constitute REIT real estate assets for purposes of the REIT asset tests and produce income that qualifies under the REIT gross income tests. The inaccuracy of any such opinions or statements may adversely affect our REIT qualification and result in significant corporate-level tax.

One-action rules may harm the value of the underlying property.

Several states have laws that prohibit more than one action to enforce a mortgage obligation, and some courts have construed the term action broadly. In such jurisdictions, if the judicial action is not conducted according to law, there may be no other recourse in enforcing a mortgage obligation, thereby decreasing the value of the underlying property.

We may be harmed by changes in various laws and regulations.

Changes in the laws or regulations governing Seneca may impair Seneca s ability to perform services in accordance with the management agreement. Our business may be harmed by changes to the laws and regulations affecting Seneca or us, including changes to securities laws and changes to the Internal Revenue Code applicable to the taxation of REITs. New legislation may be enacted into law or new interpretations, rulings or regulations could be adopted, any of which could harm us, Seneca and our stockholders, potentially with retroactive effect.

Legislation was recently enacted that reduces the maximum tax rate of non-corporate taxpayers for capital gains (for taxable years ending on or after May 6, 2003 and before January 1, 2009) and for dividends (for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2002 and before January 1, 2009) to 15%. Generally, dividends paid by REITs are not eligible for the new 15% federal income tax rate, with certain exceptions discussed under United States Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation of Taxable United States Stockholders and Distributions Generally. Although this legislation does not adversely affect the taxation of REITs or dividends paid by REITs, the more favorable treatment of regular corporate dividends could cause investors who are individuals to consider stocks of other corporations that pay dividends as more attractive relative to stocks of REITs.

We may incur excess inclusion income that would increase the tax liability of our stockholders.

In general, dividend income that a tax-exempt entity receives from us should not constitute unrelated business taxable income as defined in Section 512 of the Internal Revenue Code. If we realize excess inclusion income and allocate it to our stockholders, this income cannot be offset by net operating losses. If the stockholder is a tax-exempt entity, then this income would be fully taxable as unrelated business taxable income under Section 512 of the Internal

Revenue Code. If the stockholder is foreign, it would be subject to U.S. federal income tax withholding on this income without reduction pursuant to any otherwise applicable income-tax treaty.

Excess inclusion income could result if we held a residual interest in a real estate mortgage investment conduit, or REMIC. Excess inclusion income also would be generated if we were to issue debt obligations with two or more maturities and the terms of the payments on these obligations bore a relationship to the payments that we received on our mortgage-backed securities securing those debt obligations. We generally structure our borrowing arrangements in a manner designed to avoid generating significant amounts of excess inclusion income. We do, however, enter into various repurchase agreements that have differing maturity dates and afford the lender the right to sell any pledged mortgage securities if we default on our obligations. The IRS may determine that these borrowings give rise to excess inclusion income that should be allocated among our stockholders. Furthermore, some types of tax-exempt entities,

including voluntary employee benefit associations and entities that have borrowed funds to acquire our common stock, may be required to treat a portion of or all of the distributions they may receive from us as unrelated business taxable income. Finally, we may invest in equity securities of other REITs and it is possible that we might receive excess inclusion income from those investments.

Risks Related to Investing in Our Securities

We have not established a minimum distribution payment level, and we cannot assure you of our ability to make distributions to our stockholders in the future.

Our policy is to make quarterly distributions to our stockholders in amounts such that we distribute all or substantially all of our taxable income in each year, subject to certain adjustments, which, along with other factors, should enable us to qualify for the tax benefits accorded to a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. We have not established a minimum distribution payment level and our ability to make distributions might be harmed by the risk factors described in this prospectus. All distributions will be made at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on our earnings, our financial condition, maintenance of our REIT status and such other factors as our board of directors may deem relevant from time to time. We cannot assure you that we will have the ability to make distributions to our stockholders in the future.

Our declared cash distributions may force us to liquidate mortgage-backed securities or borrow additional funds.

From time to time, our board of directors will declare cash distributions. These distribution declarations are irrevocable. If we do not have sufficient cash to fund distributions, we will need to liquidate mortgage-backed securities or borrow funds by entering into repurchase agreements or otherwise borrowing funds under our margin lending facility to pay the distribution. If required, the sale of mortgage-backed securities at prices lower than the carrying value of such assets would result in losses. Additionally, if we were to borrow funds on a regular basis to make distributions, it is likely that our results of operations and our stock price would be harmed.

Future offerings of debt securities by us, which would be senior to our common stock upon liquidation, or equity securities, which would dilute our existing stockholders and may be senior to our common stock for the purposes of distributions, may harm the value of our common stock.

In the future, we may attempt to increase our capital resources by making additional offerings of debt or equity securities, including commercial paper, medium-term notes, senior or subordinated notes and classes of preferred stock or common stock. Upon our liquidation, holders of our debt securities and shares of preferred stock and lenders with respect to other borrowings will receive a distribution of our available assets prior to the holders of our common stock. Additional equity offerings by us may dilute the holdings of our existing stockholders or reduce the value of our common stock, or both. Our preferred stock, if issued, would have a preference on distributions that could limit our ability to make distributions to the holders of our common stock. Because our decision to issue securities in any future offering will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control, we cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing or nature of our future offerings. Thus, our stockholders bear the risk of our future offerings reducing the market price of our common stock and diluting their stock holdings in us.

Changes in yields may harm the market price of our common stock.

Our earnings are derived primarily from the expected positive spread between the yield on our assets and the cost of our borrowings. This spread will not necessarily be larger in high interest rate environments than in low interest rate environments and may also be negative. In addition, during periods of high interest rates, our net income and,

therefore, the amount of any distributions on our common stock, might be less attractive compared to alternative investments of equal or lower risk. Each of these factors could harm the market price of our common stock.

The market price and trading volume of our common stock may be volatile.

The market price of our common stock may be volatile and be subject to wide fluctuations. In addition, the trading volume in our common stock may fluctuate and cause significant price variations to occur. If the market price of our common stock declines significantly, you may be unable to resell your shares at or above your purchase price. We cannot assure you that the market price of our common stock will not fluctuate or decline significantly in the future. Some of the factors that could negatively affect our stock price or result in fluctuations in the price or trading volume of our common stock include:

actual or anticipated variations in our quarterly operating results or distributions;

changes in our funds from operations or earnings estimates or publication of research reports about us or the real estate industry;

increases in market interest rates that lead purchasers of our shares to demand a higher yield;

changes in market valuations of similar companies;

adverse market reaction to any indebtedness we incur in the future;

additions or departures of key management personnel;

the termination of or resignation by Seneca as our manager;

actions by institutional stockholders;

speculation in the press or investment community; and

general market and economic conditions.

Issuance of large amounts of our stock could cause our price to decline.

This prospectus may be used for the issuance of additional shares of common stock or shares of preferred stock that are convertible into common stock. If we were to issue a significant number of shares of our common stock or convertible preferred stock in a short period of time, our outstanding shares of common stock could be diluted and the market price of our common stock could decrease.

Restrictions on ownership of a controlling percentage of our capital stock might limit your opportunity to receive a premium on our stock.

For the purpose of preserving our REIT qualification and for other reasons, our charter prohibits direct or constructive ownership by any person of more than 9.8% of the lesser of the total number or value of the outstanding shares of our common stock or more than 9.8% of the outstanding shares of our preferred stock. The constructive ownership rules in our charter are complex and may cause our outstanding stock owned by a group of related individuals or entities to be deemed to be constructively owned by one individual or entity. As a result, the acquisition of less than 9.8% of our outstanding stock by an individual or entity could cause that individual or entity to own constructively in excess of 9.8% of our outstanding stock, and thus be subject to the ownership limit in our charter. Any attempt to own or transfer shares of our common or preferred stock in excess of the ownership limit without the consent of our board of directors is void, and will result in the shares being transferred by operation of law to a charitable trust. These provisions might inhibit market activity and the resulting opportunity for our stockholders to receive a premium for their shares that might otherwise exist if any person were to attempt to assemble a block of our stock in excess of the number of shares permitted under our charter and that may be in the best interests of our stockholders.

Broad market fluctuations could harm the market price of our common stock.

The stock market has experienced price and volume fluctuations that have affected the market price of many companies in industries similar or related to ours and that have been unrelated to these companies operating performances. These broad market fluctuations could reduce the market price of our common stock. Furthermore, our

operating results and prospects may be below the expectations of public market analysts and investors or may be lower than those of companies with comparable market capitalizations, which could harm the market price of our common stock.

Certain provisions of Maryland law and our charter and bylaws could hinder, delay or prevent a change in control of our company.

Certain provisions of Maryland law, our charter and our bylaws have the effect of discouraging, delaying or preventing transactions that involve an actual or threatened change in control of our company. These provisions include the following:

Classified Board of Directors. Our board of directors is divided into three classes with staggered terms of office of three years each. The classification and staggered terms of office of our directors make it more difficult for a third party to gain control of our board of directors. At least two annual meetings of stockholders, instead of one, generally would be required to effect a change in a majority of our board of directors.

Removal of Directors. Under our charter, subject to the rights of one or more classes or series of preferred stock to elect one or more directors, a director may be removed only for cause and only by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all votes entitled to be cast by our stockholders generally in the election of directors.

Number of Directors, Board Vacancies, Term of Office. We have elected to be subject to certain provisions of Maryland law that vest in our board of directors the exclusive right to determine the number of directors and the exclusive right, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors, to fill vacancies on the board even if the remaining directors do not constitute a quorum. These provisions of Maryland law, which are applicable even if other provisions of Maryland law or our charter or bylaws provide to the contrary, also provide that any director elected to fill a vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the full term of the class of directors in which the vacancy occurred, rather than the next annual meeting of stockholders as would otherwise be the case, and until his or her successor is elected and qualifies.

Limitation on Stockholder-Requested Special Meetings. Our bylaws provide that our stockholders have the right to call a special meeting only upon the written request of stockholders entitled to cast not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast by our stockholders at such meeting.

Advance Notice Provisions for Stockholder Nominations and Proposals. Our bylaws require advance written notice for stockholders to nominate persons for election as directors at, or to bring other business before, any meeting of our stockholders. This bylaw provision limits the ability of our stockholders to make nominations of persons for election as directors or to introduce other proposals unless we are notified in a timely manner prior to the meeting.

Exclusive Authority of our Board to Amend our Bylaws. Our bylaws provide that our board of directors has the exclusive power to adopt, alter or repeal any provision of our bylaws or to make new bylaws. Thus, our stockholders may not effect any changes to our bylaws.

Preferred Stock. Under our charter, our board of directors has authority to issue preferred stock from time to time in one or more series and to establish the terms, preferences and rights of any such series of preferred stock, all without approval of our stockholders.

Duties of Directors with Respect to Unsolicited Takeovers. Maryland law provides protection for Maryland corporations against unsolicited takeovers by limiting, among other things, the duties of the directors in unsolicited takeover situations. The duties of directors of Maryland corporations do not require them to (1) accept, recommend or respond to any proposal by a person seeking to acquire control of the corporation, (2) authorize the corporation to redeem any rights under, or modify or render inapplicable, any stockholder rights plan, (3) make a determination under the Maryland Business Combination Act or the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act, or (4) act or fail to act solely because of the effect the act or failure to act may have on an acquisition or potential acquisition of control of the corporation or the amount or type of consideration that may be offered or paid to the stockholders in an acquisition. Moreover, under Maryland law, the act of the directors of a Maryland corporation relating to or affecting an acquisition or potential acquisition of control is not subject to any higher duty or greater scrutiny than is applied to any other act of a director. Maryland law also contains a statutory presumption that an act of a director of a Maryland corporation satisfies the applicable standards of conduct for directors under Maryland law.

Ownership Limit. In order to preserve our status as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, our charter generally prohibits any single stockholder, or any group of affiliated stockholders, from beneficially owning more than 9.8% of our outstanding common and preferred stock unless our board of directors waives or modifies this ownership limit.

Maryland Business Combination Act. The Maryland Business Combination Act provides that, unless exempted, a Maryland corporation may not engage in business combinations, including mergers, dispositions of 10% or more of its assets, certain issuances of shares of stock and other specified transactions, with an interested stockholder or an affiliate of an interested stockholder for five years after the most recent date on which the interested stockholder became an interested stockholder, and thereafter unless specified criteria are met. An interested stockholder is generally a person owning or controlling,

Table of Contents

directly or indirectly, 10% or more of the voting power of the outstanding stock of a Maryland corporation. Our board of directors has adopted a resolution exempting our company from this statute. However, our board of directors may repeal or modify this resolution in the future, in which case the provisions of the Maryland Business Combination Act would be applicable to business combinations between our company and interested stockholders.

Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act. Maryland law provides that control shares of a corporation acquired in a control share acquisition shall have no voting rights except to the extent approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes eligible to be cast on the matter under the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act. Control shares means shares of stock that, if aggregated with all other shares of stock previously acquired by the acquiror, would entitle the acquiror to exercise voting power in electing directors within one of the following ranges of the voting power: one-tenth or more but less than one-third, one-third or more but less than a majority or a majority or more of all voting power. A control share acquisition means the acquisition of control shares, subject to certain exceptions. If voting rights of control shares acquired in a control share acquisition are not approved at a stockholders meeting, then, subject to certain conditions and limitations, the corporation may redeem any or all of the control shares for fair value. If voting rights of such control shares are approved at a stockholders meeting and the acquiror becomes entitled to vote a majority of the shares of stock entitled to vote, all other stockholders may exercise appraisal rights. Our bylaws contain a provision exempting acquisitions of our shares from the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act. However, our board of directors may amend our bylaws in the future to repeal or modify this exemption, in which case any control shares of our company acquired in a control share acquisition will be subject to the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act.

The market price of our common stock may be adversely affected by future sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock by our existing stockholders in the public market or the availability of such shares for sale.

We cannot predict the effect, if any, of future sales of our common stock, or the availability of shares for future sales, on the market price of our common stock. Sales of substantial amounts of shares of our common stock, or the perception that these sales could occur, may harm prevailing market prices for our common stock.

Subject to Rule 144 volume limitations applicable to our affiliates, substantially all of our 37,113,011 shares of common stock outstanding as of the date of this prospectus are eligible for immediate resale by their holders. If any of our stockholders were to sell a large number of shares in the public market, the sale could reduce the market price of our common stock and could impede our ability to raise future capital through a sale of additional equity securities.

Terrorist attacks and other acts of violence or war may affect the market for our common stock, the industry in which we operate and our operations and profitability.

Terrorist attacks may harm our results of operations and your investment. We cannot assure you that there will not be further terrorist attacks against the United States, U.S. businesses or elsewhere in the world. These attacks or armed conflicts may impact the property underlying our mortgage-backed securities, directly or indirectly, by undermining economic conditions in the United States. Losses resulting from terrorist events are generally uninsurable.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise indicated in an accompanying prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered by this prospectus and the related accompanying prospectus supplement to expand our portfolio of mortgage-related assets, primarily U.S. agency and other highly-rated, single-family, adjustable-rate,

hybrid adjustable-rate and fixed-rate mortgage-backed securities and for general corporate purposes. We then intend to further increase our portfolio of mortgage-related assets by borrowing against the mortgage-backed securities we purchase with the offering proceeds and use the funds we borrow to purchase additional mortgage-backed securities. We expect to pay market rates for brokerage fees and commissions when purchasing the securities. Until such assets can be identified and obtained, we intend to temporarily invest the balance of the proceeds of this offering in readily marketable interest-bearing assets consistent with our qualification as a REIT.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods shown:

Table of Contents

	For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2004	For the Period from April 26, 2003 through December 31, 2003(1)
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	2.23x	1.31x

(1) We commenced operations on April 26, 2003. Our operating expenses for the period April 26, 2003 through December 31, 2003 were high in proportion to our gross interest income and expense and to our net interest income compared to expectations for future periods of operations because of the costs of our start-up operations.

The ratios of earnings to fixed charges were computed by dividing earnings as adjusted by fixed charges. For this purpose, earnings consist of net income from continuing operations and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense. To date, we have not issued any preferred stock.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following summary highlights the material information about our capital stock. You should refer to our charter and our bylaws for a full description. Copies of our charter and our bylaws are incorporated herein by reference. You can also obtain copies of our charter and our bylaws and every other exhibit to our registration statement. Please see Where You Can Find More Information/Incorporation by Reference on page 55 of this prospectus.

We may offer under this prospectus one or more of the following categories of securities: (i) shares of our common stock; (ii) shares of our preferred stock, in one or more series; (iii) warrants to purchase shares of our common stock or preferred stock; (iv) debt securities and (v) any combination of the foregoing, either individually or consisting of one or more of the types of securities described in clauses (i) through (iv). The terms of any specific offering of such securities will be set forth in a prospectus supplement relating to such offering.

General

Our charter provides that we may issue up to 100,000,000 shares of our common stock, $0.001 par value per share, and 10,000,000 shares of our preferred stock, $0.001 par value per share. As of December 31, 2004, we had 37,113,011 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding and no shares of our preferred stock issued and outstanding. As of December 31, 2004, the number of record holders of our common stock was 56. The 56 holders of record include Cede & Co., which holds shares as nominee for The Depository Trust Company, which itself holds shares on behalf of beneficial owners of our common stock. Under Maryland law, our stockholders generally are not liable for our debts or obligations.

Common Stock

All outstanding shares of our common stock have been duly authorized, validly issued and are fully paid and non-assessable, and any shares of our common stock offered hereby will be duly authorized and, upon issuance in exchange for the consideration thereof, will be validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable. Subject to the preferential rights of any other class or series of stock and to the provisions of our charter regarding the restrictions on transfers of stock, holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends on such stock if, as and when

authorized and declared by our board of directors out of assets legally available therefor and to share ratably in our assets legally available for distribution to our stockholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up after payment of or adequate provision for all our known debts and liabilities.

Subject to the provisions of our charter regarding the restrictions on ownership and transfer of stock and the terms of any other class or series of our stock, each outstanding share of our common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, including the election of directors and, except as provided with respect to any other class or series of our stock, the holders of such shares of our common stock possess the exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of

our directors, which means that the holders of a plurality of the outstanding shares of our common stock voting at that meeting elect all of the directors then standing for election and the holders of the remaining shares are not able to elect any of our directors.

Holders of shares of our common stock have no preference, conversion, exchange, sinking fund or redemption rights and have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any of our securities. Subject to the provisions of our charter regarding the restrictions on ownership and transfer of stock, shares of our common stock have equal dividend, liquidation and other rights.

Under the Maryland General Corporation Law, which we sometimes refer to as the MGCL, a Maryland corporation generally cannot dissolve, amend its charter, merge, sell all or substantially all of its assets, engage in a share exchange or engage in similar transactions outside the ordinary course of business unless approved by the affirmative vote of stockholders holding at least two-thirds of the shares entitled to vote on the matter, unless a lesser percentage (but not fewer than a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast by the stockholders on the matter) is set forth in the corporation s charter. Our charter provides that any such action shall be effective and valid if taken or authorized by our stockholders by the affirmative vote of a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, except that amendments to the provisions of our charter relating to the removal of directors must be approved by our stockholders by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to reclassify any unissued shares of our common stock into other classes or series of classes of our stock, to establish the number of shares in each class or series and to set the preferences, conversion and other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications or terms or conditions of redemption for each such class or series.

Preferred Stock

Our charter authorizes our board of directors to classify any unissued shares of preferred stock and to reclassify any previously classified but unissued shares of any series of preferred stock previously classified by our board of directors. Prior to the issuance of shares of each class or series of preferred stock, our board is required by the MGCL and our charter to fix the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption for each such class or series. Thus, our board, without stockholder approval, could authorize the issuance of shares of preferred stock with terms and conditions that could have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a transaction or a change of control that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in their best interest.

The following description of our preferred stock sets forth certain general terms and provisions of our preferred stock to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The statements below describing the preferred stock are in all respects subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to the applicable provisions of our charter (including the applicable articles supplementary) and bylaws.

Subject to limitations prescribed by Maryland law and our charter, our board of directors is authorized to fix the number of shares constituting each class or series of preferred stock and the designations and powers, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights and qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, including those provisions regarding voting, redemption, dividends, dissolution or the distribution of assets, conversion or exchange and such other subjects or matters as may be fixed by resolution of our board of directors or a duly authorized committee thereof. Our preferred stock will, when issued in exchange for the consideration therefor, be fully paid and non-assessable and will not have, or be subject to, any preemptive or similar rights, unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to such preferred stock.

You should refer to the prospectus supplement relating to the class or series of preferred stock offered thereby for specific terms, including:

- the class or series, title and stated value of that preferred stock;
- the number of shares of that preferred stock offered, the liquidation preference per share and the offering price of that preferred stock;
- the dividend rate(s), period(s) and/or payment date(s) or method(s) of calculation thereof applicable to that preferred stock;
- whether dividends on that preferred stock are cumulative or not and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends on that preferred stock shall accumulate;

- the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any, for that preferred stock;
- provisions for a sinking fund, if any, for that preferred stock;
- provisions for redemption, if applicable, of that preferred stock;
- any listing of that preferred stock on any securities exchange;
- the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which that preferred stock will be convertible into our common stock, including the conversion price or manner of calculation thereof;
- any voting rights;
- the relative ranking and preference of the preferred stock as to distribution rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up if other than as described in the prospectus supplement;
- any limitations on issuance of any other series of preferred stock ranking senior to or on a parity with the preferred stock as to distribution rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up;
- a discussion of certain federal income tax considerations applicable to that preferred stock;
- any limitations on actual, beneficial or constructive ownership and restrictions on transfer of that preferred stock and, if convertible, the related common stock, in each case as may be appropriate to preserve our status as a REIT; and
- any other material terms, preferences, rights, limitations or restrictions of that preferred stock.

Rank

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the preferred stock will, with respect to rights to the payment of dividends and distribution of our assets and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, rank:

- senior to all classes or series of our common stock and to all of our equity securities the terms of which provide that those equity securities are junior to the preferred stock;
- on a parity with all of our equity securities as to which they are not expressly senior or junior; and
- junior to all of our equity securities the terms of which provide that those equity securities will rank senior to it.

For these purposes, the term equity securities does not include convertible debt securities.

Dividends

Holders of shares of our preferred stock of each class or series are entitled to receive, when, as and if authorized by our board of directors and declared by us, out of our assets legally available for payment, cash dividends at rates and on dates as will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Each dividend will be payable to holders of record as they appear on our stock transfer books on the record dates as are fixed by our board of directors.

Dividends on any class or series of our preferred stock may be cumulative or non-cumulative, as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. Dividends, if cumulative, will accumulate from and after the date set forth in the

applicable prospectus supplement. If our board of directors fails to authorize a dividend payable on a dividend payment date on any class or series of our preferred stock for which dividends are non-cumulative, then the holders of that class or series of our preferred stock will have no right to receive a dividend in respect of the dividend period ending on that dividend payment date, and we will have no obligation to pay the dividend accrued for that period, whether or not dividends on that class or series are declared payable on any future dividend payment date.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, if any shares of our preferred stock of any class or series are outstanding, no full dividends shall be authorized or paid or set apart for payment on our preferred stock of any other class or series ranking, as to dividends, on a parity with or junior to the preferred stock of that class or series for any period unless:

if that class or series of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, full cumulative dividends have been or contemporaneously are authorized and paid or authorized and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for that payment on the preferred stock of that class or series for all past dividend periods and the then current dividend period, or

if that class or series of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, full dividends for the then current dividend period have been or contemporaneously are authorized and paid or authorized and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for that payment on the preferred stock of that class or series.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, when dividends are not paid in full or a sum sufficient for their full payment is not so set apart upon the shares of preferred stock of any class or series and the shares of any other class or series of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends with the preferred stock of that class or series, all dividends declared upon shares of preferred stock of that class or series and any other class or series of preferred stock ranking on a parity as to dividends with that preferred stock shall be authorized pro rata so that the amount of dividends authorized per share on the preferred stock of that class or series and that other class or series of preferred stock shall in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued and unpaid dividends per share on the shares of preferred stock of that class or series, which shall not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods if that preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, and that other class or series of preferred stock bear to each other. No interest, or sum of money in lieu of interest, shall be payable in respect of any dividend payment or payments on preferred stock of that series that may be in arrears.

Except as provided in the immediately preceding paragraph or as otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, unless:

if that class or series of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, full cumulative dividends on the preferred stock of that class or series have been or contemporaneously are authorized and paid or authorized and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment for all past dividend periods and the then current dividend period; and

if that class or series of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, full dividends on the preferred stock of that class or series have been or contemporaneously are authorized and paid or authorized and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment for the then current dividend period,

then no dividends, other than in our common stock or other stock ranking junior to the preferred stock of that class or series as to dividends and upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, shall be authorized or paid or set aside for payment or other distribution shall be authorized or made upon our common stock or any of our other stock ranking junior to or on a parity with the preferred stock of that class or series as to dividends or upon liquidation, nor shall any common stock, excess stock or any of our other stock ranking junior to or on a parity with the preferred stock of such class or series as to dividends or upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up be redeemed, purchased or otherwise acquired for any consideration, or any moneys be paid to or made available for a sinking fund for the redemption of any shares of that stock, by us, except by conversion into or exchange for other of our stock ranking junior to the preferred stock of that class or series as to dividends and upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

Any dividend payment made on shares of a class or series of preferred stock will be first credited against the earliest accrued but unpaid dividend due with respect to shares of that class or series that remains payable.

Redemption

If the applicable prospectus supplements so states, the shares of preferred stock will be subject to mandatory redemption or redemption at our option, in whole or in part, in each case on the terms, at the times and at the redemption prices set forth in that prospectus supplement.

The prospectus supplement relating to a class or series of preferred stock that is subject to mandatory redemption will specify the number of shares of that preferred stock that shall be redeemed by us in each year commencing after a date to be specified, at a redemption price per share to be specified, together with an amount equal to all accrued and unpaid dividends thereon, which shall not, if that preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend

periods, to the date of redemption. The redemption price may be payable in cash or other property, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. If the redemption price for preferred stock of any series is payable only from the net proceeds of the issuance of our stock, the terms of that preferred stock may provide that, if no such stock shall have been issued or to the extent the net proceeds from any issuance are insufficient to pay in full the aggregate redemption price then due, that preferred stock shall automatically and mandatorily be converted into shares of our applicable stock pursuant to conversion provisions specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Notwithstanding the foregoing and except as otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, unless:

- if that class or series of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, full cumulative dividends on all shares of any class or series of preferred stock shall have been or contemporaneously are authorized and paid or authorized and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment for all past dividend periods and the then current dividend period; and

- if that class or series of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, full dividends on the preferred stock of any class or series have been or contemporaneously are authorized and paid or authorized and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment for the then current dividend period;

no shares of any class or series of preferred stock shall be redeemed unless all outstanding shares of preferred stock of that class or series are simultaneously redeemed; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not prevent the purchase or acquisition of shares of preferred stock of that class or series pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to holders of all outstanding shares of preferred stock of that class or series.

If fewer than all of the outstanding shares of preferred stock of any class or series are to be redeemed, the number of shares to be redeemed will be determined by us and those shares may be redeemed pro rata from the holders of record of those shares in proportion to the number of those shares held by those holders, with adjustments to avoid redemption of fractional shares, or any other equitable method determined by us that will not result in the issuance of any excess preferred stock.

Notice of redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of record of a share of preferred stock of any class or series to be redeemed at the address shown on our stock transfer books. Each notice shall state:

- the redemption date;

- the number of shares and class or series of the preferred stock to be redeemed;

- the redemption price;

- the place or places where certificates for that preferred stock are to be surrendered for payment of the redemption price;

- that dividends on the shares to be redeemed will cease to accrue on that redemption date; and

- the date upon which the holder s conversion rights, if any, as to those shares will terminate.

If fewer than all the shares of preferred stock of any class or series are to be redeemed, the notice mailed to each holder thereof shall also specify the number of shares of preferred stock to be redeemed from each holder. If notice of redemption of any shares of preferred stock has been given and if the funds necessary for that redemption have been set apart by us in trust for the benefit of the holders of any shares of preferred stock so called for redemption, then

from and after the redemption date dividends will cease to accrue on those shares of preferred stock, those shares of preferred stock shall no longer be deemed outstanding and all rights of the holders of those shares will terminate, except the right to receive the redemption price.

Liquidation Preference

Upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, then, before any distribution or payment shall be made to the holders of any common stock or any other class or series of our stock ranking junior to that class or series of preferred stock in the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of each class or series of preferred stock shall be entitled to receive out of our assets legally available for distribution to stockholders liquidating distributions in the amount of the

liquidation preference per share, set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, plus an amount equal to all dividends accrued and unpaid thereon, which shall not include any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods if that class or series of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend. After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distributions to which they are entitled, the holders of that class or series of preferred stock will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets. If, upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, our legally available assets are insufficient to pay the amount of the liquidating distributions on all outstanding shares of that class or series of preferred stock and the corresponding amounts payable on all shares of other classes or series of our stock ranking on a parity with that class or series of preferred stock in the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, then the holders of that class or series of preferred stock and all other classes or series of stock shall share ratably in that distribution of assets in proportion to the full liquidating distributions to which each class or series would otherwise be respectively entitled.

If liquidating distributions shall have been made in full to all holders of shares of that class or series of preferred stock, our remaining assets shall be distributed among the holders of any other classes or series of stock ranking junior to that class or series of preferred stock upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, according to their respective rights and preferences and in each case according to their respective number of shares. For those purposes, neither our consolidation nor merger with or into any other corporation, trust or other entity nor the sale, lease, transfer or conveyance of all or substantially all of our property or business shall be deemed to constitute our liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

Voting Rights

Except as set forth below or as otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, holders of preferred stock will not have any voting rights.

Whenever dividends on any shares of that class or series of preferred stock shall be in arrears for 18 months or six or more quarterly periods, the holders of those shares of that class or series of preferred stock, voting separately as a class with all other classes or series of preferred stock upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable, will be entitled to vote for the election of two additional directors to our board of directors and our entire board of directors will be increased by two directors at a special meeting called by one of our officers at the request of a holder of that class or series of preferred stock or, if that special meeting is not called by that officer within 30 days, at a special meeting called by a holder of that class or series of preferred stock designated by the holders of record of at least 10% of the shares of any of those classes or series of preferred stock, unless that request is received less than 90 days before the date fixed for the next annual or special meeting of the stockholders, or at the next annual meeting of stockholders, and at each subsequent annual meeting until:

- if that class or series of preferred stock has a cumulative dividend, then all dividends accumulated on those shares of preferred stock for the past dividend periods and the then current dividend period shall have been fully paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment, or

- if that class or series of preferred stock does not have a cumulative dividend, then four consecutive quarterly periods of dividends shall have been fully paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof set apart for payment.

Unless provided otherwise for any series of preferred stock, so long as any shares of preferred stock remain outstanding, we shall not, without the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares of each class or series of preferred stock outstanding at the time, given in person or by proxy, either in writing or at a meeting, with that class or series voting separately as a class,

authorize or create, or increase the authorized or issued amount of, any class or series of stock ranking senior to that class or series of preferred stock with respect to payment of dividends or the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up or reclassify any of our authorized stock into those shares, or create, authorize or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase those shares; or

amend, alter or repeal the provisions of our charter in respect of that class or series of preferred stock, whether by merger, consolidation or otherwise, so as to materially and adversely affect any right, preference, privilege or voting power of that class or series of preferred stock; provided, however, that any increase in the amount of the authorized preferred stock or the creation or issuance of any other class or series of preferred stock, or any increase in the number of authorized shares of that class or series, in each case ranking on a parity with or junior to the preferred stock of that class or series with respect to

payment of dividends and the distribution of assets upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, shall not be deemed to affect materially and adversely those rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers.

The foregoing voting provisions will not apply if, at or prior to the time when the act with respect to which that vote would otherwise be required shall be effected, all outstanding shares of that class or series of preferred stock shall have been redeemed or called for redemption upon proper notice and sufficient funds shall have been irrevocably deposited in trust to effect that redemption.

Conversion Rights

The terms and conditions, if any, upon which shares of any class or series of preferred stock are convertible into common stock, debt securities or another series of preferred stock will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto. Such terms will include the number of shares of common stock or those other series of preferred stock or the principal amount of debt securities into which the preferred stock is convertible, the conversion price (or manner of calculation thereof), the conversion period, provisions as to whether conversion will be at our option or at the option of the holders of that class or series of preferred stock, the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price and provisions affecting conversion in the event of the redemption of that class or series of preferred stock.

Warrants

We may issue warrants for the purchase of our common stock or preferred stock. Warrants may be issued independently or together with other securities offered under this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from such other securities. Each issuance of warrants will be issued under a separate agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as agent (the Warrant Agent), all as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular issue of warrants offered. Each issue of warrants will be evidenced by warrant certificates (the Warrant Certificates). The applicable warrant agreement and form of Warrant Certificate will be filed as exhibits to or incorporated by reference in the registration statement. The Warrant Agent will act solely as our agent and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of Warrant Certificates or beneficial owners of warrants.

If warrants are offered, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of such warrants, including the following where applicable:

the offering price;

the aggregate number of securities purchasable upon exercise of such warrants, and in the case of warrants for preferred stock, the designation, aggregate number and terms of the series of preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of such warrants;

the designation and terms of the securities with which such warrants are being offered and the number of such warrants being offered with each such security;

the date on and after which such warrants and the related securities will be transferable separately;

the price at which the number of securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;

the date on which the right to exercise such warrants shall begin and the expiration date on which such right shall expire;

certain federal income tax considerations; and

any other material terms of such warrants.

Exercise of Warrants

Each warrant will entitle the holder thereof to purchase for cash the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock at the exercise price that will be set forth in, or be determinable as set forth in, the applicable prospectus supplement. Warrants will be exercisable at any time until the close of business on the expiration date that will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, the warrants will become void. Upon receipt of payment and the Warrant Certificate properly completed and delivered as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will deliver the purchased securities as soon

as is practicable. If less than all of the warrants represented by the Warrant Certificate are exercised a new warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining warrants.

The shares of common stock or preferred stock issued upon exercise of any warrant will be subject to the restrictions on ownership set forth in our charter and, in the case of preferred stock, the applicable articles supplementary establishing its terms.

Power to Issue Additional Shares of Our Common Stock and Preferred Stock

We believe that the power of our board of directors to issue additional authorized but unissued shares of our common stock or preferred stock and to classify or reclassify unissued shares of our common stock or preferred stock and thereafter to cause us to issue such classified or reclassified shares of stock provides us with increased flexibility in structuring possible future financings and acquisitions and in meeting other needs that might arise. The additional classes or series, as well as our common stock, are available for issuance without further action by our stockholders, unless such action is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or traded. Our board of directors could authorize us to issue a class or series that could, depending upon the terms of such class or series, delay, deter or prevent a transaction or a change in control of us that might involve a premium price for holders of our common stock or otherwise be in their best interest.

Transfer Restrictions

Our charter, subject to certain exceptions, contains certain restrictions on the number of shares of our stock that a person may own. Our charter contains a stock ownership limit that prohibits any person from acquiring or holding, directly or indirectly, shares of stock in excess of 9.8% of the lesser of the total number or value of any class of our stock. Our board of directors, in its sole discretion, may exempt a person from the stock ownership limit. However, our board of directors may not grant such an exemption to any person whose ownership, direct or indirect, of in excess of 9.8% of the lesser of the number or value of the outstanding shares of our stock would result in us being closely held within the meaning of Section 856(h) of the Internal Revenue Code or otherwise would result in us failing to qualify as a REIT. The person seeking an exemption must represent to the satisfaction of our board of directors that it will not violate the aforementioned restriction. The person also must agree that any violation or attempted violation of the foregoing restriction will result in the automatic transfer of the shares of stock causing such violation to the trust (as defined below). Our board of directors may require a ruling from the IRS or an opinion of counsel, in either case in form and substance satisfactory to our board of directors in its sole discretion, in order to determine or ensure our status as a REIT.

Our charter further prohibits:

- any person from beneficially or constructively owning shares of our stock that would result in us being closely held under Section 856(h) of the Internal Revenue Code or otherwise cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT; and
- any person from transferring shares of our stock if such transfer would result in shares of our stock being beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons.

Any person who acquires or attempts or intends to acquire beneficial or constructive ownership of shares of our stock that will or may violate any of the foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership, or any person who would have owned shares of our stock that resulted in a transfer of shares to the trust in the manner described below, will be required to give notice immediately to us and provide us with such other information as we may request in order to determine the effect of such transfer on us.

If any transfer of shares of our stock occurs that, if effective, would result in any person beneficially or constructively owning shares of our stock in excess or in violation of the above transfer or ownership limitations, then that number of shares of our stock the beneficial or constructive ownership of which otherwise would cause such person to violate such limitations (rounded to the nearest whole share) shall be automatically transferred to a trust for the exclusive benefit of one or more charitable beneficiaries, and the prohibited owner shall not acquire any rights in such shares. Such automatic transfer shall be deemed to be effective as of the close of business on the business day prior to the date of such violative transfer. Shares of stock held in the trust shall be issued and outstanding shares of our stock. The prohibited owner shall not benefit economically from ownership of any shares of stock held in the trust, shall have no rights to dividends or other distributions and shall not possess any rights to vote or other rights attributable to the shares of stock held in the trust. The trustee of the trust shall have all voting rights and rights to dividends or other distributions with respect to shares of stock held in the trust, which rights shall be exercised for the exclusive benefit of the charitable beneficiary. Any dividend or other distribution paid prior to the discovery by us that shares of stock have been transferred to the trustee shall be paid by the recipient of such dividend or distribution to the trustee upon demand, and any dividend or other distribution authorized but

unpaid shall be paid when due to the trustee. Any dividend or distribution so paid to the trustee shall be held in trust for the charitable beneficiary. The prohibited owner shall have no voting rights with respect to shares of stock held in trust and, subject to Maryland law, effective as of the date that such shares of stock have been transferred to the trust, the trustee shall have the authority (at the trustee s sole discretion):

- to rescind as void any vote cast by a prohibited owner prior to the discovery by us that such shares have been transferred to the trust; and

- to recast such vote in accordance with the desires of the trustee acting for the benefit of the charitable beneficiary. However, if we have already taken irreversible corporate action, then the trustee shall not have the authority to rescind and recast such vote.

Within 20 days after receiving notice from us that shares of our stock have been transferred to the trust, the trustee shall sell the shares of stock held in the trust to a person, designated by the trustee, whose ownership of the shares will not violate any of the ownership limitations set forth in our charter. Upon such sale, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold shall terminate and the trustee shall distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the prohibited owner and to the charitable beneficiary as follows. The prohibited owner shall receive the lesser of:

- the price paid by the prohibited owner for the shares or, if the prohibited owner did not give value for the shares in connection with the event causing the shares to be held in the trust (e.g., a gift, devise or other such transaction), the market price, as defined in our charter, of such shares on the day of the event causing the shares to be held in the trust; and

- the price per share received by the trustee from the sale or other disposition of the shares held in the trust, in each case reduced by the costs incurred to enforce the ownership limits as to the shares in question. Any net sale proceeds in excess of the amount payable to the prohibited owner shall be paid immediately to the charitable beneficiary.

If, prior to the discovery by us that shares of our stock have been transferred to the trust, such shares are sold by a prohibited owner, then:

- such shares shall be deemed to have been sold on behalf of the trust; and

- to the extent that the prohibited owner received an amount for such shares that exceeds the amount that such prohibited owner was entitled to receive pursuant to the aforementioned requirement, such excess shall be paid to the trustee upon demand.

In addition, shares of our stock held in the trust shall be deemed to have been offered for sale to us, or our designee, at a price per share equal to the lesser of:

- the price per share in the transaction that resulted in such transfer to the trust (or, in the case of a devise or gift, the market price at the time of such devise or gift); and

- the market price on the date we, or our designee, accept such offer.

We have the right to accept such offer until the trustee has sold the shares of stock held in the trust. Upon such a sale to us, the interest of the charitable beneficiary in the shares sold will terminate and the trustee will distribute the net proceeds of the sale to the prohibited owner.

All certificates representing shares of our common stock bear, and preferred stock, if issued, will bear, a legend referring to the restrictions described above.

Every owner of more than 1% (or such lower percentage as required by the Internal Revenue Code or the related regulations) of all classes or series of our stock, including shares of our common stock, within 30 days after the end of each fiscal year, is required to give written notice to us stating the name and address of such owner, the number of shares of each class and series of our stock that the owner beneficially owns and a description of the manner in which such shares are held. Each such owner must provide to us such additional information as we may request in order to determine the effect, if any, of such beneficial ownership on our status as a REIT and to ensure compliance with our stock ownership limits. In addition, each stockholder is, upon demand, required to provide to us such information as we may reasonably request in order to determine our status as a REIT and to comply with the requirements of any

taxing authority or governmental authority or to determine such compliance. We may request such information after every sale, disposition or transfer of our common stock prior to the date a registration statement for such stock becomes effective.

These ownership limits could delay, deter or prevent a change in control of us or other transaction that might involve a premium price for our common stock or otherwise be in the best interest of our stockholders.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The following description of the debt securities we may offer, together with the additional information included in any prospectus supplement, describes the material terms and conditions of this type of security but is not complete. For a more detailed description of the terms of the debt securities, please refer to the indenture to be entered into between Luminent and a trustee to be selected, relating to the issuance of the debt securities. Any indenture pursuant to which we issue debt securities will be qualified under and governed by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

General

Unless otherwise set forth in an indenture and described in a prospectus supplement, our subsidiaries, if any, will have no direct obligation to pay amounts due on our debt securities. The debt securities effectively will be subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries. Such indebtedness would effectively rank senior to the debt securities. The indenture will permit us and our subsidiaries to incur substantial amounts of additional indebtedness and other liabilities. Any rights of the Company and our creditors, including the holders of debt securities, to participate in the assets of any of our subsidiaries upon any liquidation or reorganization of any such subsidiary will be subject to the prior claims of that subsidiary s creditors, including trade creditors, and the holders of any preferred stock of that subsidiary.

Information You Will Find In The Applicable Prospectus Supplement

The indenture will provide that we may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series. The indenture will not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that can be issued thereunder. The prospectus supplement for a series of debt securities will provide information relating to the terms of the series of debt securities being offered, which may include:

the title and denominations of the debt securities of the series;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of the series;

the date or dates on which the principal and premium, if any, with respect to the debt securities of the series are payable or the method of determination thereof;

the interest rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, on the debt securities of the series, if any, or the method of determining such rate or rates;

the interest payment dates for the series of debt securities or the method by which such date will be determined, the terms of any deferral of interest and any right of ours to extend the interest payment periods;

the place or places where the principal and interest on the series of debt securities will be payable;

the terms and conditions upon which debt securities of the series may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option or otherwise;

our obligation, if any, to redeem, purchase or repay debt securities of the series pursuant to any sinking fund or at the option of the holders and the terms of any such redemption, purchase or repayment;

the terms, if any, upon which the debt securities of the series may be convertible into or exchanged for other securities, including, among other things, the initial conversion or exchange price or rate and the conversion or exchange period;

if the amount of principal, premium, if any, or interest with respect to the debt securities of the series may be determined with reference to an index or formula, the manner in which such amounts will be determined;

any provisions of the indenture that deal with defeasance;

the portion of the principal amount of debt securities of the series that will be payable upon declaration of acceleration or provable in bankruptcy;

whether we will be restricted from incurring any additional indebtedness;

whether the debt securities of the series will be secured or guaranteed and, if so, on what terms;

a discussion on any material or special U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;

the events of default with respect to the debt securities of the series and the right of the trustee or the holders to declare acceleration;

any trustees, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars;

the applicability of the covenants in the indenture or in the terms relating to permitted consolidations, mergers or sales of assets;

the subordination, if any, of the debt securities of the series and terms of the subordination; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities.

Holders of debt securities may present debt securities for exchange in the manner, at the places and subject to the restrictions set forth in the debt securities and the applicable prospectus supplement. Holders of registered debt securities may present debt securities for transfer in the manner, at the places and subject to the restrictions set forth in the debt securities and the applicable prospectus supplement. We will provide these services without charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith, but subject to the limitations provided in the indenture. Debt securities in bearer form and the coupons, if any, appertaining thereto will be transferable by delivery.

Senior Debt

We may issue senior debt securities under the indenture and any coupons that will constitute part of our senior debt. Unless otherwise set forth in the indenture and described in a prospectus supplement, the senior debt securities will be senior unsecured obligations, ranking equally with all of our existing and future senior unsecured debt. The senior debt securities will be senior to all of our subordinated debt and junior to any secured debt we may incur as to the assets securing such debt.

Subordinated Debt

We may issue subordinated debt securities under the indenture and any coupons that will constitute part of our subordinated debt. These subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the indenture, to all of our senior indebtedness. Senior indebtedness includes our obligations and obligations guaranteed or assumed by us for borrowed money or evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or other similar instruments, in each case, identified by our board of directors as senior indebtedness. Senior indebtedness does not include subordinated debt securities, including senior subordinated debt securities, or any other

obligations specifically designated as being subordinate in right of payment to senior indebtedness.

In general, the holders of all senior indebtedness are entitled to receive payment of the full amount unpaid on senior indebtedness before the holders of any of the subordinated debt securities or coupons are entitled to receive a payment on account of the principal or interest on the indebtedness evidenced by the subordinated debt securities upon the occurrence of certain events. These events include:

- any insolvency, bankruptcy, receivership, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or other similar proceedings that concern us or a substantial part of our property;

Table of Contents

except as provided in the indenture, any default on the payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest on or other monetary amounts due and payable on any senior indebtedness has not been paid before the end of any applicable grace period;

any other default on senior indebtedness occurs and the maturity of such senior indebtedness is accelerated in accordance with its terms, and unless either (a) such default shall have been cured or waived and any such acceleration shall have been rescinded or (b) such senior indebtedness shall have been paid in full; and

the principal of, and accrued interest on, any series of the subordinated debt securities having been declared due and payable upon an event of default contained in the indenture.

If this prospectus is being delivered in connection with a series of subordinated debt securities, the applicable prospectus supplement or the information incorporated by reference will set forth the approximate amount of our senior indebtedness outstanding as of the end of our most recent fiscal quarter.

Senior Subordinated Debt

We may issue senior subordinated debt securities under the indenture and any coupons that will constitute part of our senior subordinated debt. These senior subordinated debt securities will be, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the indenture, subordinate and junior in right of payment to all of our senior indebtedness and senior to our other subordinated debt. See the discussions above under - Senior Debt and - Subordinated Debt for a more detailed explanation of our senior and subordinated indebtedness.

Interest Rate

Debt securities that bear interest will do so at a fixed rate or a floating rate. We may sell, at a discount below the stated principal amount, any debt securities that bear no interest or that bear interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below the prevailing market rate. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the special U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to:

any discounted debt securities; and

any debt securities issued at par that are treated as having been issued at a discount for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Registered Global Securities

We may issue registered debt securities of a series in the form of one or more fully registered global securities. We will deposit the registered global security with a depositary or with a nominee for a depositary identified in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. The global security or global securities will represent and will be in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the portion of the aggregate principal amount of outstanding registered debt securities of the series to be represented by the registered global security or securities. Unless it is exchanged in whole or in part for debt securities in definitive registered form, a registered global security may not be transferred, in the following three instances:

by the depositary for the registered global security to a nominee of the depositary;

by a nominee of the depositary to the depositary or another nominee of the depositary; and

by the depositary or any nominee to a successor of the depositary or a nominee of the successor.

The prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities will describe the specific terms of the depositary arrangement concerning any portion of that series of debt securities to be represented by a registered global security. We anticipate that the following provisions will generally apply to all depositary arrangements.

Upon the issuance of a registered global security, the depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the principal amounts of the debt securities represented by the registered global security to the accounts of persons that have accounts with the depositary. These persons are referred to as participants. Any underwriters, agents or debtors participating in the distribution of debt securities represented by the registered global security will designate the accounts to be credited. Only participants or persons

that hold interests through participants will be able to own beneficially interests in a registered global security. The depositary for a global security will maintain records of beneficial ownership interests in a registered global security for participants. Participants or persons that hold through participants will maintain records of beneficial ownership interests in a global security for persons other than participants. These records will be the only means to transfer beneficial ownership in a registered global security.

The laws of some states may require that specified purchasers of securities take physical delivery of the securities in definitive form. These laws may limit the ability of those persons to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in global securities.

So long as the depositary, or its nominee, is the registered owner of a registered global security, the depositary or its nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by the registered global security for all purposes under the indenture. Except as set forth below, owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security:

- may not have the debt securities represented by a registered global security registered in their names;
- will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of debt securities represented by a registered global security in definitive form; and
- will not be considered the owners or holders of debt securities represented by a registered global security under the indenture.

Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a registered global security must rely on the procedures of the depositary for the registered global security and, if the person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which the person owns its interests, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture applicable to the registered global security.

We understand that, under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders, or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a registered global security desires to give or take any action that a holder is entitled to give or take under the indenture, the depositary for the registered global security would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take the action, and the participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through the participants to give or take the action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

Payment of Interest on and Principal of Registered Global Securities

We will make principal, premium, if any, and interest payments on debt securities represented by a registered global security registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee to the depositary or its nominee as the registered owner of the registered global security. None of us, the trustee or any paying agent for debt securities represented by a registered global security will have any responsibility or liability for:

- any aspect of the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in such registered global security;
- maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to beneficial ownership interests;
- the payments to beneficial owners of the global security of amounts paid to the depositary or its nominee; or
- any other matter relating to the actions and practices of the depositary, its nominee or any of its participants.

We expect that the depositary, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium or interest in respect of the global security, will immediately credit participants accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their beneficial interests in the principal amount of a registered global security as shown on the depositary s records. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a registered global security held through participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, which is currently the case with the securities held for the accounts of customers registered in street name. Such payments will be the responsibility of participants.

Exchange of Registered Global Securities

We may issue debt securities in definitive form in exchange for the registered global security if both of the following events occur:

- the depositary for any debt securities represented by a registered global security is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- we do not appoint a successor depositary within 90 days.

In addition, we may, at any time, determine not to have any of the debt securities of a series represented by one or more registered global securities. In this event, we will issue debt securities of that series in definitive form in exchange for all of the registered global security or securities representing those debt securities.

Covenants by the Company

The indenture will include covenants by us, including, among other things, that we will make all payments of principal and interest at the times and places required. The indenture or supplemental indenture with respect to each series of debt securities may contain additional covenants, including covenants that could restrict our right and our subsidiaries right to incur additional indebtedness or liens and to take certain actions with respect to their respective businesses and assets.

Events of Default

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following will be events of default under the indenture with respect to each series of debt securities issued under the indenture:

- failure to pay when due any interest on any debt security of that series, continued for 30 days;
- failure to pay when due the principal of, or premium, if any, on, any debt security of that series;
- default in the payment of any sinking fund installment with respect to any debt security of that series when due and payable;
- failure to comply with the restrictive covenant prohibiting us from engaging in certain consolidations, mergers or transfers of all or substantially all of our assets;
- failure to perform any other covenant or agreement of ours under the indenture with respect to the debt securities of that series, continued for 60 days after written notice to us by the trustee or holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the series to which the covenant or agreement relates;
- certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or similar proceedings affecting us; and
- any other event of default specified in the indenture under which such series of debt securities are issued.

Except as to certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or similar proceedings affecting us and except as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, if any event of default shall occur and be continuing with respect to any series of debt securities under the indenture, either the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of outstanding debt securities of such series ma