

CORPORATE OFFICE PROPERTIES TRUST  
Form S-3ASR  
August 31, 2006

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 31, 2006

Registration Statement No. 333-

## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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### FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT  
UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

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### CORPORATE OFFICE PROPERTIES TRUST

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Maryland**

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

**23-2947217**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

**6711 Columbia Gateway Drive**

**Suite 300**

**Columbia, Maryland 21046**

**(443) 285-5400**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

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**Randall M. Griffin**  
**President and Chief Executive Officer**  
**Corporate Office Properties Trust**  
**6711 Columbia Gateway Drive**  
**Suite 300**  
**Columbia, MD 21046**  
**(443) 285-5400**

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

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**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public:** From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box: ☐

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If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box: ☒ x

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering: ☐ o \_\_\_\_\_

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering: ☐ o \_\_\_\_\_

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box: ☒ x

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box: ☐ o

### **CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

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Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered(1)(2)	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Shares of Beneficial Interest, par value \$.01 per share				
Preferred Shares of Beneficial Interest, par value \$.01 per share	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Depository Shares				
Warrants(4)				

(1) The securities registered hereby may be sold separately, together or in units with other securities registered hereby.

(2) In addition to any common shares of beneficial interest, preferred shares of beneficial interest and depository shares as may be issued directly under this registration statement, an indeterminate number of common shares, preferred shares and other securities that may be issued by the registrant, either at the option of the holder thereof or the registrant, upon conversion of, or in exchange for, common, preferred or depository shares or warrants, and for which no separate consideration will be received, are being registered hereby.

(3) An indeterminate amount of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered hereunder at indeterminate prices. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable upon exercise, conversion or exchange of other securities or that are issued in units. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee, which will be paid subsequently on a pay-as-you-go basis.

(4) The warrants, if issued, will entitle the holders thereof to purchase preferred shares and/or common shares, and may be sold separately, together or in units with other securities registered hereby.

PROSPECTUS

**COMMON SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST  
PREFERRED SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST  
DEPOSITARY SHARES  
WARRANTS**

This prospectus relates to common shares of beneficial interest, preferred shares of beneficial interest, depositary shares representing interests in preferred shares and warrants to purchase common shares and/or preferred shares, or any combination of these securities, that we may sell from time to time in one or more offerings.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities. We will provide the specific terms and conditions of these sales and the securities offered in supplements to this prospectus prepared in connection with each offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and each applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in the securities. The securities may be offered directly, through agents on our behalf to or through underwriters.

Our common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **OFC**. We have not yet determined whether any of the other securities that may be offered by this prospectus will be listed on any exchange, inter-dealer quotation system, or over-the-counter market. If we decide to seek listing of any such securities, a prospectus supplement relating to those securities will disclose the exchange, quotation system or market on which the securities will be listed.

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**Investing in our securities involves risks. See **Risk Factors** beginning on page 6 of this prospectus and included in our periodic reports and other information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission before you invest in our securities.**

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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.

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The date of this prospectus is August 31, 2006

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	3
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	3
<u>SUMMARY</u>	4
<u>OUR COMPANY</u>	4
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	6
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	16
<u>RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED SHARE DIVIDENDS</u>	16
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SHARES</u>	17
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	29
<u>FEDERAL INCOME TAX MATTERS</u>	30
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	41
<u>EXPERTS</u>	42
<u>SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS</u>	42
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	43
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	43

*The terms COPT, Company, we, our and us refer to Corporate Office Properties Trust and its subsidiaries, including Corporate Office Properties, L.P., which we refer to as our operating partnership, Corporate Office Management, Inc. ( COMI ), Corporate Development Services, LLC, COPT Development and Construction Services, LLC, COPT Property Management Services, LLC and Corporate Cooling & Controls, LLC, unless the context suggests otherwise. The term you refers to a prospective investor.*

## 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, which enables us, from time to time, to offer and sell in one or more offerings common shares, preferred shares, depositary shares and warrants to purchase common shares and/or preferred shares or any combination of these securities. This prospectus contains a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we sell any securities pursuant to this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, together with the additional information described below under the heading Where You Can Find More Information, before you decide whether to invest in the securities.

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This section contains forward-looking statements, as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, that are based on our current expectations, estimates and projections about future events and financial trends affecting the financial condition and operations of our business. Forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as may, will, should, expect, estimate or other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, many of which we cannot predict with accuracy and some of which we might not even anticipate. Although we believe that the expectations, estimates and projections reflected in such forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions at the time made, we can give no assurance that these expectations, estimates and projections will be achieved. Future events and actual results may differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements. Important factors that may affect these expectations, estimates and projections include, but are not limited to:

- our ability to borrow on favorable terms;
- general economic and business conditions, which will, among other things, affect office property demand and rents, tenant creditworthiness, interest rates and financing availability;
- adverse changes in the real estate markets, including, among other things, increased competition with other companies;
- risks of real estate acquisition and development activities, including, among other things, risks that development projects may not be completed on schedule, that tenants may not take occupancy or pay rent or that development and operating costs may be greater than anticipated;
- risks of investing through joint venture structures, including risks that our joint venture partners may not fulfill their financial obligations as investors or may take actions that are inconsistent with our objectives;
- our ability to satisfy and operate effectively under federal income tax rules relating to real estate investment trusts and partnerships;
- governmental actions and initiatives; and
- environmental requirements.

We undertake no obligation to update or supplement forward-looking statements. For further information on factors that could impact the Company and the statements contained herein, you should refer to the Risk Factors section of this prospectus, as well as to the information in Section 1A, Risk Factors, in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as it may be updated by information included in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

## SUMMARY

*This prospectus summary calls your attention to selected information in this document, but it does not contain all the information that is important to you. To understand us and the securities that may be offered through this prospectus, you should read this entire prospectus carefully, including the section called Risk Factors, and the documents to which we refer you in the section called Where You Can Find More Information in this prospectus.*

## OUR COMPANY

*General.* We are a fully-integrated and self-managed real estate investment trust, or REIT, that focuses on the acquisition, development, ownership, management and leasing of primarily Class A suburban office properties in the Greater Washington, D.C. region and other select markets. We have implemented a core customer expansion strategy built on meeting, through acquisitions and development, the multi-location requirements of our strategic tenants. Our strategy is to operate in select, demographically strong submarkets where we can achieve critical mass, operating synergies and key competitive advantages, including attracting high quality tenants and securing acquisition and development opportunities. As of June 30, 2006, our investments in real estate included the following:

- 170 wholly owned operating properties totaling 14.8 million square feet;
- 17 wholly owned properties under construction or development that we estimate will total approximately 2.1 million square feet upon completion and two wholly owned office properties totaling approximately 115,000 square feet that were under redevelopment;
- wholly owned land parcels totaling 563 acres that we believe are potentially developable into approximately 6.8 million square feet; and
- partial ownership interests, primarily through joint ventures, in the following:
- 18 operating properties totaling approximately 885,000 square feet;
- one office property totaling 44,000 square feet that was under construction;
- two predominantly warehouse properties totaling approximately 611,000 square feet that were mostly under redevelopment to office properties; and
- land parcels totaling 224 acres that were located near certain of our operating properties and potentially developable into approximately 3.0 million square feet.

We focus on leasing our office properties to large, financially sound entities with significant, long-term space requirements. We believe our extensive experience, market knowledge and network of industry contacts within the Greater Washington region provide us with an important competitive advantage in establishing, maintaining and enhancing our prominence within our targeted submarkets. Our five executive officers have an average of 19 years of real estate experience. In addition, as of June 30, 2006, our executive officers and trustees collectively owned 16.5% of our common equity interests, which includes ownership of outstanding common shares and common units of our partnership convertible into common shares.

Interests in our Operating Partnership are in the form of common and preferred units. As of June 30, 2006, we owned approximately 82.4% of the outstanding common units and approximately 95.1% of the outstanding preferred units. The remaining common and preferred units in our Operating Partnership were owned by third parties, which included certain of our officers and trustees.





We believe that we are organized and have operated in a manner that permits us to satisfy the requirements for taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and we intend to continue to operate in such a manner. If we qualify for taxation as a REIT, we generally will not be subject to Federal income tax on our taxable income that is distributed to our shareholders. A REIT is subject to a number of organizational and operational requirements, including a requirement that it distribute to its shareholders at least 90% of its annual REIT taxable income (excluding net capital gains).

Our executive offices are located at 6711 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300, Columbia, Maryland 21046 and our telephone number is (443) 285-5400.

**RISK FACTORS**

*You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below before purchasing our securities. Our most significant risks and uncertainties are described below; however, they are not the only ones that we face. If any of the following actually occurs, our business, financial condition or operating results could be materially harmed, the trading price of our securities, to the extent such securities are listed on any exchange, inter-dealer quotation system or over-the-counter market, could decline and you may lose all or part of your investment. You should carefully consider each of the risks and uncertainties below and all of the information in this prospectus and the documents we refer you to in the section in this prospectus called *Where You Can Find More Information*.*

**We may suffer adverse consequences as a result of our reliance on rental revenues for our income.** We earn revenue from renting our properties. Our operating costs do not necessarily fluctuate in relation to changes in our rental revenue. This means that our costs will not necessarily decline and may increase even if our revenues decline.

For new tenants or upon lease expiration for existing tenants, we generally must make improvements and pay other tenant-related costs for which we may not receive increased rents. We also make building-related capital improvements for which tenants may not reimburse us.

If our properties do not generate revenue sufficient to meet our operating expenses and capital costs, we may have to borrow additional amounts to cover these costs. In such circumstances, we would likely have lower profits or possibly incur losses. We may also find in such circumstances that we are unable to borrow to cover such costs, in which case our operations could be adversely affected. Moreover, there may be less or no cash available for distributions to our shareholders.

In addition, the competitive environment for leasing is affected considerably by a number of factors including, among other things, changes due to economic factors and supply and demand of space. These factors may make it difficult for us to lease existing vacant space and space associated with future lease expirations at rental rates that are sufficient to meeting our short-term capital needs.

**Adverse developments concerning some of our key tenants could have a negative impact on our revenue.** As of June 30, 2006, 20 tenants accounted for 55.0% of the total annualized rental revenue of our wholly owned properties. We computed the annualized rental revenue by multiplying by 12 the sum of monthly contractual base rents and estimated monthly expense reimbursements under active leases in our portfolio of wholly owned properties as of June 30, 2006. Information regarding our five largest tenants is set forth below:

Tenant	Annualized Rental Revenue at June 30, 2006 (in thousands)	Percentage of Total Annualized Rental Revenue of Wholly Owned Properties	Number of Leases
United States of America	\$ 41,125	14.5 %	43
Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.	17,268	6.1 %	11
Northrop Grumman Corporation	12,275	4.3 %	15
Computer Sciences Corporation(1)	10,981	3.9 %	4
L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc.(1)	8,906	3.1 %	5

(1) Includes affiliated organizations and agencies and predecessor companies.

If any of our five largest tenants fail to make rental payments to us or if the United States Government elects to terminate several of its leases and the space cannot be re-leased on satisfactory terms, there would be an adverse effect on our financial performance and ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

As of June 30, 2006, the United States defense industry (comprising the United States Government and defense contractors) accounted for approximately 51.5% of the total annualized rental revenue of our wholly owned properties. Most of the 14.5% of our total annualized rental revenue that we derived from leases with agencies of the United States Government as of June 30, 2006 is included in the 51.5% of our total annualized revenue from the United States defense industry. We classify the revenue from our leases into industry groupings based solely on management's knowledge of the tenants' operations in leased space. Occasionally, classifications require subjective and complex judgments. For example, we have a tenant that is considered by many to be in the computer industry; however, since the nature of that tenant's operations in the space leased from us is focused on providing service to the United States Government's defense department, we classify the revenue we earn from the lease as United States defense industry revenue. We do not use independent sources such as Standard Industrial Classification codes for classifying our revenue into industry groupings and if we did, the resulting groupings would be materially different.

We have become increasingly reliant on defense industry tenants in recent years due primarily to: (1) increased activity in that industry following the events of September 11, 2001; (2) the strong presence of the industry in a number of our submarkets; and (3) our strategy to form strategic alliances with certain of our tenants in the industry. The percentage of our total annualized rental revenue derived from the defense industry could continue to increase. A reduction in government spending for defense could affect the ability of these tenants to fulfill lease obligations or decrease the likelihood that these tenants will renew their leases. In the case of the United States Government, a reduction in government spending could result in the early termination of leases. Such occurrences could have an adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition, cash flows and ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

**We rely on the ability of our tenants to pay rent and would be harmed by their inability to do so.** Our performance depends on the ability of our tenants to fulfill their lease obligations by paying their rental payments in a timely manner. In addition, as noted above, we rely on a few major tenants for a large percentage of our total rental revenue. If one of our major tenants, or a number of our smaller tenants, were to experience financial difficulties, including bankruptcy, insolvency or general downturn of business, there could be an adverse effect on our financial performance and ability to make expected distributions to shareholders.

**Most of our properties are geographically concentrated in the Mid-Atlantic region, particularly in the Greater Washington, D.C. region and neighboring suburban Baltimore. We may suffer economic harm in the event of a decline in the real estate market or general economic conditions in those regions.** Most of our properties are located in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States and as of June 30, 2006, our properties located in the Greater Washington, D.C. region and neighboring Suburban Baltimore accounted for a combined 87.3% of our total annualized rental revenue from wholly owned properties. Our properties are also typically concentrated in office parks in which we own most of the properties. Consequently, we do not have a broad geographic distribution of our properties. As a result, a decline in the real estate market or general economic conditions in the Mid-Atlantic region, the Greater Washington, D.C. region or the office parks in which our properties are located could have an adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, cash flows and ability to make expected distributions to our shareholders.

**We would suffer economic harm if we were unable to renew our leases on favorable terms.** When leases expire for our properties, our tenants may not renew or may renew on terms less favorable to us than the terms of their original leases. If a tenant leaves, we can expect to experience a vacancy for some period of time, as well as higher capital costs than if a tenant renews. As a result, our financial performance and ability to make expected distributions to our shareholders could be adversely affected if we experience a high volume of tenant departures at the end of their lease terms. Set forth below are the percentages of total annualized rental revenue from wholly owned properties as of June 30, 2006 that were subject to scheduled lease expirations in the remaining six months of 2006 and each of the next five calendar years:

2006 (July - December)	4.1%
2007	12.0%
2008	11.1%
2009	17.7%
2010	13.7%
2011	7.4%

Most of the leases with our largest tenant, the United States Government, which account for 14.5% of our total annualized rental revenue in wholly owned properties at June 30, 2006, provide for consecutive one-year terms or provide for early termination rights. All of the leasing statistics set forth above assume that the United States Government will remain in the space that it leases through the end of the respective arrangements, without ending consecutive one-year leases prematurely or exercising early termination rights. We reported the statistics in this manner since we manage our leasing activities using these same assumptions and believe these assumptions to be probable.

**We may not be able to compete successfully with other entities that operate in our industry.** The commercial real estate market is highly competitive. We compete for the purchase of commercial property with many entities, including other publicly traded commercial REITs. Many of our competitors have substantially greater financial resources than we do. If our competitors prevent us from buying properties that we target for acquisition, we may not be able to meet our property acquisition and development goals. Moreover, numerous commercial properties compete for tenants with our properties. Some of the properties competing with ours may have newer or more desirable locations, or the competing properties' owners may be willing to accept lower rates than are acceptable to us. Competition for property acquisitions, or for tenants in properties that we own, could have an adverse effect on our financial performance and distributions to our shareholders.

**We may be unable to execute our plans to acquire existing commercial real estate properties.** We intend to acquire existing commercial real estate properties to the extent that suitable acquisitions can be made on advantageous terms. Acquisitions of commercial properties entail risks, such as the risks that we may not be in a position or have the opportunity in the future to make suitable property acquisitions on advantageous terms and that such acquisitions will fail to perform as expected. Our failure to successfully execute acquisitions of existing real estate properties could adversely affect our financial performance and our ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

**We may suffer economic harm as a result making unsuccessful acquisitions in new markets.** In 2005, we completed acquisitions of properties in regions where we did not previously own properties. Moreover, we expect to continue to pursue selective acquisitions of properties in new regions. These acquisitions may entail risks in addition to those we have faced in past acquisitions, such as the risk that we do not correctly anticipate conditions or trends in a new region, and are therefore not able to operate the acquired property profitably. If this occurred, it could adversely affect our financial performance and our ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

**We may be unable to execute our plans to develop and construct additional properties.** Although the majority of our investments are in currently leased properties, we also develop, construct and renovate



properties, including some that are not fully pre-leased. When we develop, construct and renovate properties, we assume the risk that actual costs will exceed our budgets, that we will experience delays and that projected leasing will not occur, any of which could adversely affect our financial performance and our ability to make distributions to our shareholders. In addition, we generally do not obtain construction financing commitments until the development stage of a project is complete and construction is about to commence. We may find that we are unable to obtain financing needed to continue with the construction activities for such projects.

**We may suffer economic harm as a result of the actions of our joint venture partners.** We invest in certain entities in which we are not the exclusive investor or principal decision maker. As of June 30, 2006, we owned eighteen fully operational properties and three properties under construction or redevelopment through joint ventures. We also continue to pursue new investments in real estate through joint ventures. Aside from our inability to unilaterally control the operations of joint ventures, our investments in joint ventures entail the additional risks that (i) the other parties to these investments may not fulfill their financial obligations as investors, in which case we may need to fund such parties' share of additional capital requirements and (ii) the other parties to these investments may take actions that are inconsistent with our objectives, either of which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations, cash flows and ability to make expected distributions to our shareholders.

**We are subject to possible environmental liabilities.** We are subject to various Federal, state and local environmental laws. These laws can impose liability on property owners or operators for the costs of removal or remediation of hazardous substances released on a property, even if the property owner was not responsible for the release of the hazardous substances. Costs resulting from environmental liability could be substantial. The presence of hazardous substances on our properties may also adversely affect occupancy and our ability to sell or borrow against those properties. In addition to the costs of government claims under environmental laws, private plaintiffs may bring claims for personal injury or other reasons. Additionally, various laws impose liability for the costs of removal or remediation of hazardous substances at the disposal or treatment facility. Anyone who arranges for the disposal or treatment of hazardous substances at such a facility is potentially liable under such laws. These laws often impose liability on an entity even if the facility was not owned or operated by the entity.

**Real estate investments are illiquid, and we may not be able to sell our properties on a timely basis when we determine it is appropriate to do so.** Real estate investments can be difficult to sell and convert to cash quickly, especially if market conditions are depressed. Such illiquidity will tend to limit our ability to vary our portfolio of properties promptly in response to changes in economic or other conditions. Moreover, under certain circumstances, the Internal Revenue Code imposes certain penalties on a REIT that sells property held for less than four years. In addition, for certain of our properties that we acquired by issuing units in our Operating Partnership, we are restricted by agreements with the sellers of the properties for a certain period of time from entering into transactions (such as the sale or refinancing of the acquired property) that will result in a taxable gain to the sellers without the seller's consent. Due to all of these factors, we may be unable to sell a property at an advantageous time.

**We are subject to other possible liabilities that would adversely affect our financial position and cash flows.** Our properties may be subject to other risks related to current or future laws, including laws benefiting disabled persons, and state or local laws relating to zoning, construction and other matters. These laws may require significant property modifications in the future for which we may not have budgeted and could result in the levy of fines against us. In addition, although we believe that we adequately insure our properties, we are subject to the risk that our insurance may not cover all of the costs to restore a property that is damaged by a fire or other catastrophic events, including acts of war or terrorism. The occurrence of any of these events could have an adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations, cash flows and ability to make expected distributions to our shareholders.

**As a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, we may be subject to increased costs of insurance and limitations on coverage.** Our portfolio of properties is insured for losses under our property, casualty and umbrella insurance policies through September 30, 2006. These policies include coverage for acts of terrorism. Future changes in the insurance industry's risk assessment approach and pricing structure may increase the cost of insuring our properties and decrease the scope of insurance coverage, either of which could adversely affect our financial position and operating results.

**We may suffer adverse effects as a result of the indebtedness that we carry and the terms and covenants that relate to this debt.** Our strategy is to operate with slightly higher debt levels than many other REITs. However, these higher debt levels could make it difficult to obtain additional financing when required and could also make us more vulnerable to an economic downturn. Most of our properties have been secured to collateralize indebtedness. In addition, we rely on borrowings to fund some or all of the costs of new property acquisitions, construction and development activities and other items. Our organizational documents do not limit the amount of indebtedness that we may incur. As of June 30, 2006, our total outstanding debt was \$1.4 billion and our debt to total assets (defined as mortgage and other loans divided by total assets) was 62.1%.

Payments of principal and interest on our debt may leave us with insufficient cash to operate our properties or pay distributions to our shareholders required to maintain our qualification as a REIT. We are also subject to the risks that:

- we may not be able to refinance our existing indebtedness or refinance on terms as favorable as the terms of our existing indebtedness;
- certain debt agreements of our Operating Partnership could restrict the ability of our Operating Partnership to make cash distributions to us, which could result in reduced distributions to our shareholders or the need to incur additional debt to fund these distributions; and
- if we are unable to pay our debt service on time or are unable to comply with restrictive financial covenants in certain of our mortgage loans, our lenders could foreclose on our properties securing such debt and in some cases other properties and assets that we own.

A number of our loans are cross-collateralized, which means that separate groups of properties from our portfolio secure each of these loans. More importantly, many of our loans are cross-defaulted, which means that failure to pay interest or principal on any of our loans will create a default on certain of our other loans. Any foreclosure of our properties would result in loss of income and asset value that would negatively affect our financial condition, results of operations, cash flows and ability to make expected distributions to our shareholders. In addition, if we are in default and the value of the properties securing a loan is less than the loan balance, the lender may require payment from our other assets.

As of June 30, 2006, approximately 33.9% of our total debt had variable interest rates. If short-term interest rates were to rise, our debt service payments on adjustable rate debt would increase, which would lower our net income and could decrease our distributions to our shareholders.

We use interest rate swap agreements from time to time to reduce the impact of changes in interest rates. Decreases in interest rates would result in increased interest payments due under interest rate swap agreements in place and could result in the Company recognizing a loss and remitting a payment to unwind such agreements.

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We must refinance our mortgage debt in the future. As of June 30, 2006, our scheduled debt payments over the remaining six months of 2006 and each of the next five calendar years, including maturities, were as follows:

Year	Amount(1) (in thousands)
2006 (July    December)	\$    111,725    (2)
2007	163,598    (3)
2008	519,467    (4)
2009	63,131
2010	74,468
2011	108,854

- (1) Represents principal maturities only and therefore excludes a net premium of \$580,000.
- (2) Includes a loan maturity totaling \$41.6 million that may be extended for two six-month periods, subject to certain conditions. Also includes loan maturities totaling \$60.0 million that were repaid in July 2006 using proceeds from our revolving credit facility.
- (3) Includes maturities totaling \$67.6 million that may be extended for a one-year period, subject to certain conditions.
- (4) Includes maturities totaling \$362.2 million that may be extended for a one-year period, subject to certain conditions.

Our operations likely will not generate enough cash flow to repay some or all of this debt without additional borrowings or new equity financings. If we cannot refinance our debt, extend the repayment dates, or raise additional equity prior to the date when our debt matures, we would default on our existing debt, which would have an adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations, cash flows and ability to make expected distributions to our shareholders.

**We may be unable to continue to make shareholder distributions at expected levels.** We intend to make regular quarterly cash distributions to our shareholders. However, distribution levels depend on a number of factors, some of which are beyond our control.

Our loan agreements contain provisions that could restrict future distributions. Our ability to sustain our current distribution level will also be dependent, in part, on other matters, including:

- continued property occupancy and timely payment by tenants of rent obligations;
- the amount of future capital expenditures and expenses relating to our properties;
- the level of leasing activity and future rental rates;
- the strength of the commercial real estate market;
- competition;
- the costs of compliance with environmental and other laws;
- our corporate overhead levels;
- the amount of uninsured losses; and



- our decision to reinvest in operations rather than distribute available cash.

In addition, we can make distributions to the holders of our common shares only after we make preferential distributions to holders of our preferred shares.

**Our ownership limits are important factors.** Our Declaration of Trust limits ownership of our common shares by any single shareholder to 9.8% of the number of the outstanding common shares or 9.8% of the value of the outstanding common shares, whichever is more restrictive. Our Declaration of Trust also limits ownership by any single shareholder of our common and preferred shares in the aggregate to 9.8% of the aggregate value of the outstanding common and preferred shares. We call these restrictions

the Ownership Limit. Our Declaration of Trust allows our Board of Trustees to exempt shareholders from the Ownership Limit.

**Our Declaration of Trust includes other provisions that may prevent or delay a change of control.** Subject to the requirements of the New York Stock Exchange, our Board of Trustees has the authority, without shareholder approval, to issue additional securities on terms that could delay or prevent a change in control. In addition, our Board of Trustees has the authority to reclassify any of our unissued common shares into preferred shares. Our Board of Trustees may issue preferred shares with such preferences, rights, powers and restrictions as our Board of Trustees may determine, which could also delay or prevent a change in control.

**Our Board of Trustees is divided into three classes of Trustees, which could delay a change of control.** Our Declaration of Trust divides our Board of Trustees into three classes. The term of one class of the Trustees expires each year, at which time a successor class is elected for a term ending at the third succeeding annual meeting of shareholders. Such staggered terms make it more difficult for a third party to acquire control of us.

**The Maryland business statutes also impose potential restrictions on a change of control of our company.** Various Maryland laws may have the effect of discouraging offers to acquire us, even if the acquisition would be advantageous to shareholders. Resolutions adopted by our Board of Trustees and/or provisions of our bylaws exempt us from such laws, but our Board of Trustees can adopt new resolutions or change our bylaws at any time to make these provisions applicable to us.

**Our failure to qualify as a REIT would have adverse tax consequences.** We believe that since 1992 we have qualified for taxation as a REIT for Federal income tax purposes. We plan to continue to meet the requirements for taxation as a REIT. Many of these requirements, however, are highly technical and complex. The determination that we are a REIT requires an analysis of various factual matters and circumstances that may not be totally within our control. For example, to qualify as a REIT, at least 95% of our gross income must come from certain sources that are itemized in the REIT tax laws. We are also required to distribute to shareholders at least 90% of our REIT taxable income (excluding capital gains). The fact that we hold most of our assets through our Operating Partnership and its subsidiaries further complicates the application of the REIT requirements. Even a technical or inadvertent mistake could jeopardize our REIT status. Furthermore, Congress and the Internal Revenue Service might make changes to the tax laws and regulations and the courts might issue new rulings that make it more difficult or impossible for us to remain qualified as a REIT.

If we fail to qualify as a REIT, we would be subject to Federal income tax at regular corporate rates. Also, unless the Internal Revenue Service granted us relief under certain statutory provisions, we would remain disqualified as a REIT for four years following the year we first fail to qualify. If we fail to qualify as a REIT, we would have to pay significant income taxes and would therefore have less money available for investments or for distributions to our shareholders. This would likely have a significant adverse effect on the value of our securities. In addition, we would no longer be required to make any distributions to our shareholders.

**We have certain distribution requirements that reduce cash available for other business purposes.** As a REIT, we must distribute at least 90% of our annual taxable income (excluding capital gains), which limits the amount of cash we have available for other business purposes, including amounts to fund our growth. Also, it is possible that because of the differences between the time we actually receive revenue or pay expenses and the period during which we report those items for distribution purposes, we may have to borrow funds to meet the 90% distribution requirement. We may become subject to tax liabilities that adversely affect our operating cash flow and available cash for distribution to shareholders.

**A number of factors could cause our security prices to decline.** As is the case with any publicly-traded securities, certain factors outside of our control could influence the value of our common and preferred shares. These conditions include, but are not limited to:

- market perception of REITs in general and office REITs in particular;
- market perception of REITs relative to other investment opportunities;
- the level of institutional investor interest in our company;
- general economic and business conditions;
- prevailing interest rates; and
- market perception of our financial condition, performance, dividends and growth potential.

Generally, REITs are tax-advantaged relative to C corporations because they are not subject to corporate-level federal income tax on income that they distribute to shareholders. However, Congress recently made changes to the tax laws and regulations that could make it less advantageous for investors to invest in REITs. The Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, or the 2003 Act, provides that generally for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2002 and before December 31, 2008, certain dividends received by domestic individual shareholders from certain C corporations are subject to a reduced rate of tax of up to 15%. Prior to this Act, such dividends received by domestic individual shareholders were generally subject to tax at ordinary income rates, which were as high as 38.6%. In general, the provisions of the Act do not benefit individual shareholders of REITs and could make an investment in a C corporation that is not a REIT more attractive than an investment in a REIT. We cannot predict the effects that this Act may have on the market price for our common or preferred shares.

The average daily trading volume of our common shares during the six months ended June 30, 2006 was approximately 237,000 shares, and the average trading volume of our publicly-traded preferred shares is generally insignificant. As a result, relatively small volumes of transactions could have a pronounced effect on the market price of such shares.

**If we issue preferred shares, their market value could be substantially affected by various factors.** We may issue series of preferred shares with no established trading market. Whether or not we apply to list any such series of shares on the NYSE, or receive approval of such an application, an active trading market on the NYSE for any such series of preferred shares may not develop or last, in which case the trading price of such series of preferred shares could be adversely affected. If an active trading market does develop on the NYSE for any series of preferred shares, such preferred shares may trade at prices higher or lower than their initial offering price. The trading price of any series of our preferred shares would depend on many factors, including:

- prevailing interest rates;
- the market for similar securities;
- general economic conditions; and
- our financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

Even if the underwriters in any offering of any series of our preferred shares state that they intend to make a market in such preferred shares, they may not be obligated to do so and may discontinue market-making at any time without notice.

**Our ability to pay dividends on any series of preferred shares may be limited.** Because we conduct substantially all of our operations through our operating partnership, our ability to pay dividends on any series of preferred shares will depend almost entirely on payments and dividends received on our interests in our operating partnership. Additionally,

the terms of some of the debt to which our operating partnership is a party limit its ability to make some types of payments and other dividends to us. This in turn limits our ability to make some types of payments, including payment of dividends on preferred shares, unless we meet certain financial tests or such payments or dividends are required to maintain our

qualification as a REIT. As a result, if we are unable to meet the applicable financial tests, we may not be able to pay dividends on any series of preferred shares in one or more periods.

**Our ability to pay dividends is further limited by the requirements of Maryland law.** Our ability to pay dividends on any series of preferred shares is further limited by the laws of Maryland. Under applicable Maryland law, a Maryland REIT may not make a distribution if, after giving effect to the distribution, the REIT would not be able to pay its debts as the debts become due in the usual course of business, or the REIT's total assets would be less than the sum of its total liabilities plus the amount that would be needed, if the REIT were dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of shareholders whose preferential rights are superior to those receiving the distribution. Accordingly, we may not make a distribution on any series of preferred shares if, after giving effect to the distribution, we would not be able to pay our debts as they become due in the usual course of business or our total assets would be less than the sum of our total liabilities plus the amount that would be needed to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of the holders of shares of any series of preferred shares then outstanding, if any, with preferences senior to those of any such series of preferred shares.

**We may incur additional indebtedness, which may harm our financial position and cash flow and potentially impact our ability to pay dividends on any series of preferred shares.** Our governing documents do not limit us from incurring additional indebtedness and other liabilities. As of June 30, 2006, we had \$1.4 billion of consolidated indebtedness outstanding. We may incur additional indebtedness and become more highly leveraged, which could harm our financial position and potentially limit our cash available to pay dividends. As a result, we may not have sufficient funds remaining to satisfy our dividend obligations relating to any series of preferred shares if we incur additional indebtedness.

**We cannot assure you that we will be able to pay dividends regularly.** Our ability to pay dividends in the future is dependent on our ability to operate profitably and to generate cash from our operations. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to pay dividends on a regular quarterly basis in the future. Furthermore, any new shares of beneficial interest issued will substantially increase the cash required to continue to pay cash dividends at current levels. Any common or preferred shares of beneficial interest that may in the future be issued to finance acquisitions, upon exercise of options or otherwise, would have a similar effect.

**Our ability to issue preferred shares in the future could adversely affect the rights of holders of existing holders of any series of preferred shares.** Our Declaration of Trust authorizes us to issue up to 15,000,000 preferred shares of beneficial interest in one or more series on terms determined by our Board of Trustees. As of June 30, 2006, we had 6,775,000 preferred shares outstanding. Our future issuance of any series of preferred shares under our Declaration of Trust could therefore effectively diminish our ability to pay dividends on, and the liquidation preference of, any series of preferred shares.

**We are dependent on external sources of capital for future growth.** As noted above, because we are a REIT, we must distribute at least 90% of our annual taxable income to our shareholders. Due to this requirement, we will not be able to fund our acquisition, construction and development activities using cash flow from operations. Therefore, our ability to fund these activities is dependent on our ability to access capital funded by third parties. Such capital could be in the form of new loans, equity issuances of common shares, preferred shares, common and preferred units in our Operating Partnership or joint venture funding. Such capital may not be available on favorable terms or at all. Moreover, additional debt financing may substantially increase our leverage and subject us to covenants that restrict management's flexibility in directing our operations, and additional equity offerings may result in substantial dilution of our shareholders' interests. Our inability to obtain capital when needed could have a material adverse effect on our ability to expand our business and fund other cash requirements.



**Our business and operations would suffer in the event of system failures.** Despite system redundancy, the implementation of security measures and the existence of a Disaster Recovery Plan for our internal information technology systems, our systems are vulnerable to damages from computer viruses, unauthorized access, energy blackouts, natural disasters, terrorism, war and telecommunication failures. Any system failure or accident that causes interruptions in our operations could result in a material disruption to our business. We may also incur additional costs to remedy damages caused by such disruptions.

**Certain of our Trustees have potential conflicts of interest.** Certain members of our Board of Trustees own partnership units in our Operating Partnership. These individuals may have personal interests that conflict with the interests of our shareholders. For example, if our Operating Partnership sells or refinances certain of the properties that these officers or Trustees contributed to the Operating Partnership, the Trustees could suffer adverse tax consequences. Their personal interests could conflict with our interests if such a sale or refinancing would be advantageous to us. We have certain policies in place that are designed to minimize conflicts of interest. We cannot, however, assure you that these policies will be successful in eliminating the influence of such conflicts, and if they are not successful, decisions could be made that might fail to reflect fully the interests of all of our shareholders.

**We are dependent on our key personnel, and the loss of any key personnel could have an adverse effect on our operations.** We are dependent on the efforts of our executive officers. The loss of any of their services could have an adverse effect on our operations. Although certain of our officers have entered into employment agreements with us, we cannot assure you that they will remain employed with us.

**We may change our policies without shareholder approval, which could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, market price of our securities or ability to pay distributions.** Our Board of Trustees determines all of our policies, including our investment, financing and distribution policies. Although our Board of Trustees has no current plans to do so, it may amend or revise these policies at any time without a vote of our shareholders. Policy changes could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations, the market price of our securities or distributions.

**Compliance with changing regulation of corporate governance and public disclosure may result in additional expenses, affect our operations and affect our reputation.** Changing laws, regulations and standards relating to corporate governance and public disclosure, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and new SEC regulations and New York Stock Exchange rules, are creating uncertainty for public companies. These new or changed laws, regulations and standards are subject to varying interpretations in many cases due to their lack of specificity, and as a result, their application in practice may evolve over time as new guidance is provided by regulatory and governing bodies, which could result in continuing uncertainty regarding compliance matters and higher costs necessitated by ongoing revisions to disclosure and governance practices. We are committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance and public disclosure. As a result, our efforts to comply with evolving laws, regulations and standards have resulted in, and are likely to continue to result in, increased general and administrative expenses and a diversion of management time and attention from revenue-generating activities to compliance activities. In particular, our efforts to comply with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the related regulations regarding our required assessment of our internal controls over financial reporting and our external auditors' audit of that assessment has required the commitment of significant financial and managerial resources. In addition, it has become more difficult and more expensive for us to obtain director and officer liability insurance. We expect these efforts to require the continued commitment of significant resources. Further, our trustees, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer could face an increased risk of personal liability in connection with the performance of their duties. As a result, we may have difficulty attracting and retaining qualified trustees and executive officers, which could harm our business. If our efforts to comply with new or changed laws, regulations and





standards differ from the activities intended by regulatory or governing bodies due to ambiguities related to practice, our reputation may be harmed.

## USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, we intend to use the net proceeds of any sale of the securities that we may offer under this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement for working capital and other general business purposes, which may include capital expenditures, acquisition or development of additional properties, repayment of indebtedness and repurchases of outstanding shares.

## RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED SHARE DIVIDENDS

The following table sets forth our ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred share dividends for the six months ended June 30, 2006 and for each of the last five calendar years. For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred share dividends, earnings were computed by adding fixed charges (excluding preferred share dividends, preferred unit distributions and capitalized interest), gain on sales of real estate, excluding discontinued operations, amortization of capitalized interest and distributed loss of equity investees to income from continuing operations before minority interests, income taxes and equity in loss of unconsolidated entities. Fixed charges consist of interest costs, debt issuance costs, dividends to preferred shareholders and distributions to preferred unit holders. This information is given on a historical basis.

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred share dividends	1.11x	1.19x	1.28x	1.10x	1.22x	1.23x

## DESCRIPTION OF SHARES

*The following summary of the terms and provisions of our common shares, preferred shares and depositary shares representing interests in preferred shares does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our Declaration of Trust and the Articles Supplementary to our Declaration of Trust relating to the designation of each series of our preferred shares, each of which is available from us as described in Where You Can Find More Information.*

### General

Under our Declaration of Trust, we are authorized to issue up to 75,000,000 common shares and 15,000,000 preferred shares. As of June 30, 2006, 1,265,000 shares were classified as 10.25% Series E Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares, of which 1,150,000 shares were issued and outstanding; 1,425,000 shares were classified as 9.875% Series F Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares, all of which were issued and outstanding; 2,200,000 shares were classified as 8.0% Series G Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares, all of which were issued and outstanding; and 2,000,000 shares were classified as 7.5% Series H Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares, all of which were issued and outstanding. Our Board of Trustees may increase the authorized number of common shares and preferred shares without shareholder approval. As of June 30, 2006, there were 42,373,505 common shares issued and outstanding.

In July 2006, we redeemed the 1,150,000 Series E Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares that were outstanding at June 30, 2006 and issued 3,390,000 shares classified as 7.625% Series J Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares.

We are authorized to issue preferred shares in one or more classes or subclasses, with the designations, preferences, conversion and other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends, qualifications and terms and conditions of redemption, in each case, as are permitted by Maryland law and as our Board of Trustees may determine by resolution. Except for the Series F Preferred Shares, the Series G Preferred Shares, the Series H Preferred Shares and the Series J Preferred Shares, there are currently no other classes or series of preferred shares authorized. However, our Operating Partnership has issued to a third party 352,000 Series I Preferred Units.

As of June 30, 2006, we owned approximately 82.4% of the outstanding common units and 1,150,000 Series E Preferred Units, 1,425,000 Series F Preferred Units, 2,200,000 Series G Preferred Units and 2,000,000 Series H Preferred Units issued by our Operating Partnership. In July 2006, the 1,150,000 Series E Preferred Units were redeemed and we were issued 3,390,000 Series J Preferred Units.

Each series of units has economic terms substantially equivalent to the economic terms of the corresponding Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares, respectively, that we have issued. The 352,000 Series I Preferred Units of our Operating Partnership are owned by a third party and have a liquidation preference of \$25.00. Prior to the distributions with respect to common units of our Operating Partnership, and through September 23, 2019, each Series I Preferred Unit is entitled to a priority distribution of 7.5% of the liquidation value per Series I Preferred Unit, payable quarterly. After September 23, 2019, the priority distribution on the Series I Preferred Units increases in accordance with the terms thereof. Each Series I Preferred Unit is convertible into 0.5 common units at any time at the option of the holder. We may redeem the Series I Preferred Units at any time after September 23, 2019 for any amount equal to their liquidation preference.

The economic terms of the common units will be substantially equivalent to the economic terms of the common shares. The Series F, Series G, Series H, Series I and Series J Preferred Units are treated equally (i.e., are *pari passu*) in priority over the common units in our Operating Partnership with respect to liquidation payments and quarterly distributions. Distributions on these preferred units are the source of funds for the payment of dividends on our preferred shares.

Except in certain limited circumstances, at any time that we hold less than 90% of the outstanding partnership units in our Operating Partnership, any amendment to the Operating Partnership agreement must be approved by the vote of a majority of the common and preferred units not held by us, each voting as a separate class. If we were to hold 90% or more of the outstanding partnership units, we would have the right to amend the Operating Partnership agreement without first seeking such unitholder approval.

### **Common Shares**

All common shares that are currently outstanding have been, or when issued upon redemption of common and preferred units of our Operating Partnership in accordance with the terms of the Operating Partnership agreement will be, duly authorized, fully paid and nonassessable. Subject to the preferential rights of our Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares, as well as any other shares or series of beneficial interest that we may issue in the future, and to the provisions of our Declaration of Trust regarding the restriction on transfer of common shares, holders of common shares are entitled to receive dividends on such shares if, as and when authorized and declared by the Board of Trustees out of assets legally available therefor and to share ratably in our assets legally available for distribution to our shareholders in the event of the liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of COPT after payment of, or adequate provision for, all of our known debts and liabilities.

Subject to the provisions of our Declaration of Trust regarding restrictions on transfer of shares of beneficial interest, each outstanding common share entitles the holder thereof to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders, including the election of Trustees, and, except as provided with respect to any other class or series of shares of beneficial interest, the holders of such common shares possess the exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of Trustees, which means that the holders of a majority of the outstanding common shares can elect all of the Trustees then standing for election. The Declaration of Trust provides for the election of Trustees to staggered three-year terms. See the section below entitled Classification of Board, Vacancies and Removal of Trustees.

Holders of common shares have no preference, conversion, sinking fund, redemption or appraisal rights and have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any of our securities. Subject to the provisions of the Declaration of Trust regarding the restriction on transfer of common shares, the common shares have equal dividend, distribution, liquidation and other rights.

Our Declaration of Trust provides for approval by a majority of the votes cast by holders of common shares entitled to vote on the matter in all situations permitting or requiring action by the shareholders, except with respect to: (i) the election of Trustees (which requires a plurality of all the votes cast at a meeting of our shareholders at which a quorum is present); (ii) the removal of Trustees (which requires the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest entitled to vote generally in the election of Trustees, which action can only be taken for cause by vote at a shareholder meeting); (iii) the merger of COPT with another entity or the sale (or other disposition) of all or substantially all of the assets of COPT (which requires the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest entitled to vote on the matter); (iv) the amendment of the Declaration of Trust (which requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter); and (v) the termination of COPT (which requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest entitled to be cast on the matter). Our Declaration of Trust permits the Trustees, without any action by the holders of common shares, (a) by a two-thirds vote, to amend the Declaration of Trust from time to time to qualify as a real estate investment trust under the Code or the Maryland REIT Law and (b) by a majority vote to amend the Declaration of Trust to increase or decrease the aggregate number of shares of beneficial interest or the number of shares of any class of shares of beneficial interest that we have authority to issue.

## Preferred Shares

*The following summary of the terms and provisions of our preferred shares does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the pertinent sections of our Declaration of Trust and the Articles Supplementary to the Declaration of Trust relating to the establishment of each series of our preferred shares, each of which is available from us as described in [Where You Can Find More Information](#).*

We issued 1,425,000 Series F Preferred Shares in an underwritten public offering in September 2001; 2,200,000 Series G Preferred Shares in an underwritten public offering in August 2003; 2,000,000 Series H Preferred Shares in an underwritten public offering in December 2003; and 3,390,000 Series J Preferred Shares in an underwritten public offering in July 2006. We contributed the proceeds of each of these offerings to our Operating Partnership in exchange for a number of respective Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Units equal to the number of the applicable series of preferred shares that we sold in the respective offerings. The terms of each series of the preferred units are substantially equivalent to the economic terms of the respective series of preferred shares to which they relate. The terms of these outstanding series of preferred shares are as follows:

**Ranking.** The Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, rank (i) prior or senior to the common shares and any other class or series of our equity securities authorized or designated in the future if the holders of Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares shall be entitled to the receipt of dividends or of amounts distributable upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up in preference or priority to the holders of shares of such class or series ( **Junior Shares** ); (ii) on a parity with one another and any other class or series of our equity securities authorized or designated in the future if the holders of such class or series of securities and the Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares shall be entitled to the receipt of dividends and of amounts distributable upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up in proportion to their respective amounts of accrued and unpaid dividends per share or liquidation preferences, without preference or priority of one over the other ( **Parity Shares** ); and (iii) junior to any class or series of our equity securities authorized or designated in the future if the holders of such class or series shall be entitled to the receipt of dividends and amounts distributable upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up in preference or priority to the holders of the Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares ( **Senior Shares** ).

**Dividends.** Holders of Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares Preferred Shares are entitled to receive, when and as declared by our Board of Trustees, out of our funds legally available for payment, quarterly cash dividends on such shares at the following rates: \$2.46875 per year per Series F Preferred Share; \$2.0 per year per Series G Preferred Share; \$1.875 per year per Series H Preferred Share; and \$1.90625 per year per Series J Preferred Share. Such dividends are cumulative from the date of original issue, whether or not in any dividend period or periods such dividends shall be declared or there shall be funds legally available for the payment of such dividends, and are payable quarterly on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of each year (or, if not a business day, the next succeeding business day) (each a **Dividend Payment Date** ). Any dividend payable on the Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares for any partial dividend period will be computed ratably on the basis of twelve 30-day months and a 360-day year. Dividends are payable in arrears to holders of record as they appear on our share records at the close of business on the applicable record date, which are fixed by our Board of Trustees and which are not more than 60 nor less than 10 days prior to such Dividend Payment Date. Holders of Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares are not entitled to receive any dividends in excess of respective cumulative dividends on such shares. No interest, or sum of money in lieu of interest, shall be payable in respect to any dividend payment or payments on the Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares that may be in arrears.

When dividends are not paid in full upon the Parity Shares, or a sum sufficient for such payment is not set apart, all dividends declared upon the Parity Shares shall be declared ratably in proportion to the



respective amounts of dividends accrued and unpaid on the Parity Shares. Except as set forth in the preceding sentence, unless dividends on the Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares equal to the full amount of accrued and unpaid dividends have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid or declared and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof has been or contemporaneously is set apart for such payment, for all past dividend periods, no dividends shall be declared or paid or set apart for payment by us and no other distribution of cash or other property may be declared or made, directly or indirectly, by us with respect to any Parity Shares. Unless dividends equal to the full amount of all accrued and unpaid dividends on the Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares have been paid, or declared and set apart for payment, for all past dividend periods, no dividends (other than dividends or distributions paid in Junior Shares or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase Junior Shares) may be declared or paid or set apart for payment by us and no other distribution of cash or other property may be declared or made, directly or indirectly, by us with respect to any Junior Shares, nor shall any Junior Shares be redeemed, purchased or otherwise acquired (except for a redemption, purchase or other acquisition of common shares made for purposes of our employee incentive or benefit plan or any such plan of any of our subsidiaries) for any consideration (or any monies be paid to or made available for a sinking fund for the redemption of any such Junior Shares), directly or indirectly, by us (except by conversion into or exchange for Junior Shares, or options, warrants or rights to subscribe for or purchase Junior Shares), nor shall any other cash or other property be paid or distributed to or for the benefit of holders of Junior Shares. Notwithstanding the provisions described above, we shall not be prohibited from (i) declaring or paying or setting apart for payment any dividend or distribution on any Parity Shares or (ii) redeeming, purchasing or otherwise acquiring any Parity Shares, in each case, if such declaration, payment, redemption, purchase or other acquisition is necessary to maintain our qualification as a REIT.

*Liquidation Preference.* Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, before any payment or distribution by us shall be made to or set apart for the holders of any Junior Shares, the holders of Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares shall be entitled to receive a liquidation preference of \$25.00 per share (the Liquidation Preference ), plus an amount equal to all accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared) to the date of final distribution to such holders; but such holders shall not be entitled to any further payment. Until the holders of the Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares have been paid the Liquidation Preference in full, plus an amount equal to all accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not earned or declared) to the date of final distribution to such holders, no payment shall be made to any holder of Junior Shares upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up. If upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up, our assets, or proceeds thereof, distributable among the holders of Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares shall be insufficient to pay in full the above described preferential amount and liquidating payments on any other shares of any class or series of Parity Shares, then our assets, or the proceeds thereof, shall be distributed among the holders of the Parity Shares ratably in the same proportion as the respective amounts that would be payable on the Parity Shares if all amounts payable thereon were paid in full. A voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up shall not include a consolidation or merger of us with or into one or more other entities, a sale or transfer of all or substantially all of our assets or a statutory share exchange. Upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up, after payment shall have been made in full to the holders of the Parity Shares, any other series or class or classes of Junior Shares shall be entitled to receive any and all of our assets remaining to be paid or distributed, and the holders of the Parity Shares shall not be entitled to share therein.

*Voting Rights.* Holders of Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares will not have any voting rights, except as set forth below and except as otherwise required by applicable law.

If and whenever dividends on any series or class of Parity Shares shall be in arrears for six or more quarterly periods (whether or not consecutive), the number of Trustees then constituting our Board of Trustees shall be increased by two (if not already increased by reason of similar types of provisions with respect to Parity Shares of any other class or series which is entitled to similar voting rights (the Voting

Parity Shares)), and the holders of all Voting Parity Shares then entitled to exercise similar voting rights, voting as a single class regardless of series, will be entitled to vote for the election of the two additional Trustees at any annual meeting of shareholders or at a special meeting of the holders of the Voting Parity Shares called for that purpose. At any time when such right to elect Trustees separately shall have so vested, we must call such special meeting upon the written request of the holders of record of not less than 20% of the total number of Voting Parity Shares then outstanding. Such special meeting shall be held, in the case of such written request, within 90 days after the delivery of such request, provided that we shall not be required to call such a special meeting if such request is received less than 120 days before the date fixed for the next ensuing annual meeting of shareholders and the holders of the Voting Parity Shares are offered the opportunity to elect such Trustees at such annual meeting of shareholders. If, prior to the end of the term of any Trustee so elected, a vacancy in the office of such Trustee shall occur by reason of death, resignation, or disability, such vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term of such former Trustee by the appointment of a new Trustee by the remaining Trustee or Trustees so elected. Whenever dividends in arrears on outstanding Voting Parity Shares shall have been paid and dividends thereon for the current quarterly dividend period shall have been paid or declared and set apart for payment, then the right of the holders of the Voting Parity Shares to elect such additional two Trustees shall cease and the terms of office of such Trustees shall terminate and the number of Trustees constituting our Board of Trustees shall be reduced accordingly.

The affirmative vote or consent of at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by the holders of the outstanding Voting Parity Shares entitled to vote on such matters, voting as a single class, will be required to (i) authorize, create, increase the authorized amount of, or issue any shares of any class of Senior Shares or any security convertible into shares of any class of Senior Shares, or (ii) amend, alter or repeal any provision of, or add any provision to, our Declaration of Trust or Bylaws, if such action would materially adversely affect the voting powers, rights or preferences of the holders of the Voting Parity Shares; provided, however, that no such vote of the holders of any particular class or series of the Voting Parity Shares shall be required if, at or prior to the time such amendment, alteration or repeal is to take effect or the issuance of any such Senior Shares or convertible security is to be made, as the case may be, provisions are made for the redemption of all outstanding shares of the respective class or series. The amendment of or supplement to our Declaration of Trust to authorize, create, increase or decrease the authorized amount of or to issue Junior Shares, or any shares of any class or series of Parity Shares shall not be deemed to materially adversely affect the voting powers, rights or preferences of the holders of the Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares.

With respect to the exercise of the above-described voting rights, each Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Share has one (1) vote per share, except that when any other class or series of preferred shares shall have the right to vote with the Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares as a single class, then the holders of each such series and the holders of such other class or series shall have one quarter of one (0.25) vote per \$25.00 of liquidation preference.

*Conversion.* The Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares are not convertible into or exchangeable for any other property or securities.

*Optional Redemption.* Shares of the Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares will not be redeemable by us prior to the following dates (except in certain limited circumstances relating to our maintenance of our ability to qualify as a REIT as described in the section entitled *Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer* above and subject to the holder's right to convert such shares prior to such date in the manner as described in the section entitled *Conversion* above): October 15, 2006 with respect to the Series F Preferred Shares; August 11, 2008 with respect to the Series G Preferred Shares; December 18, 2008 with respect to the Series H Preferred Shares; and July 20, 2011 with respect to the Series J Preferred Shares. On or after these respective dates, we may, at our option, redeem the applicable series of preferred shares, in whole or from time to time in part, at a cash redemption price equal to 100%

of the Liquidation Preference, plus all accrued and unpaid dividends, if any, to the redemption date. The redemption price for each series of these preferred shares (other than any portion thereof consisting of accrued and unpaid dividends) will be payable solely with the proceeds from the sale of equity securities by us or our Operating Partnership (whether or not such sale occurs concurrently with such redemption). For purposes of the preceding sentence, equity securities means any common shares, preferred shares, depositary shares, partnership or other interests, participations or other ownership interests (however designated) and any rights (other than debt securities convertible into or exchangeable at the option of the holder for equity securities (unless and to the extent such debt securities are subsequently converted into equity securities)) or options to purchase any of the foregoing of or in us or our Operating Partnership.

In the event of a redemption of any Series F, Series G, Series H or Series J Preferred Shares, if the redemption date occurs after a dividend record date and on or prior to the related Dividend Payment Date, the dividend payable on such Dividend Payment Date in respect of such series of shares called for redemption will be payable on such Dividend Payment Date to the holders of record at the close of business on such dividend record date, and will not be payable as part of the redemption price for such shares. The redemption date will be selected by us and shall not be less than 30 days nor more than 60 days after the date notice of redemption is sent by us. If full cumulative dividends on all outstanding Series F, Series G, Series H or Series J Preferred Shares have not been paid or declared and set apart for payment, no Series F, Series G, Series H or Series J Preferred Shares may be redeemed unless all outstanding shares within the applicable series of preferred shares are simultaneously redeemed and neither we nor any of our affiliates may purchase or acquire shares within the applicable series of preferred shares otherwise than pursuant to a purchase or exchange offer made on the same terms to all holders of such series of preferred shares.

If fewer than all the outstanding shares within the Series F, Series G, Series H or Series J Preferred Shares are to be redeemed, we will select those Series F, Series G, Series H or Series J Preferred Shares to be redeemed pro rata in proportion to the numbers of shares of the applicable series of preferred shares held by holders (with adjustment to avoid redemption of fractional shares) or by lot or in such other manner as the Board of Trustees may determine.

Notice of redemption will be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of New York, such publication to be made once a week for two consecutive weeks commencing not less than 30 nor more than 60 days prior to the redemption date. A similar notice shall be mailed by us not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days prior to the redemption date to each holder of the applicable series of preferred shares to be redeemed by first class mail, postage prepaid at such holder's address as the same appears on our share records. Any notice which was mailed as described above will be conclusively presumed to have been duly given on the date mailed whether or not the holder receives the notice. Each notice will state: (i) the redemption date, (ii) the number of preferred shares to be redeemed, (iii) the place or places where certificates for such preferred shares are to be surrendered for cash and (iv) the redemption price payable on such redemption date, including, without limitation, a statement as to whether or not accrued and unpaid dividends will be (x) payable as part of the redemption price or (y) payable on the next Dividend Payment Date to the record holder at the close of business on the relevant record date as described above. From and after the redemption date (unless we default in the payment of our redemption obligation), dividends on the applicable series of preferred shares to be redeemed will cease to accrue, such shares will no longer be deemed to be outstanding and all rights of the holders thereof shall cease (except (a) the right to receive the cash payable upon such redemption without interest thereon and (b) if the redemption date occurs after a dividend record date and on or prior to the related Dividend Payment Date, the right of record holders at the close of business on such record date to receive the dividend payable on such Dividend Payment Date). The full dividend payable on such Dividend Payment Date with respect to such the applicable series of preferred shares called for redemption will be payable on such Dividend Payment Date to the holders of record of such shares at the close of business on the corresponding dividend record date notwithstanding the prior redemption of such shares.



The Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares have no stated maturity and are not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption provisions except as provided under **Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer** above.

Subject to applicable law and the limitation on purchases when dividends on the Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares are in arrears, we may, at any time and from time to time, purchase any Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares in the open market, by tender or by private agreement.

#### **Issuance of Additional Preferred Shares**

The Board of Trustees has the ability to designate additional series of our preferred shares of beneficial interest by adopting an amendment to the Declaration of Trust designating the terms of such additional series of preferred shares (a **Designating Amendment**). The preferred shares, when issued, will be fully paid and non-assessable. Because our Board of Trustees has the power to establish the preferences, powers and rights of each series of preferred shares, subject to the rights of the holders of the Series F, Series G, Series H and Series J Preferred Shares, our Board may afford the holders of any series of preferred shares preferences, powers and rights, voting or otherwise, senior to the rights of holders of common shares. The issuance of additional series of preferred shares could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change of control that might involve a premium price for shareholders or otherwise be in their best interest. The rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of the preferred shares of each series will be fixed by the Designating Amendment relating to the new series.

#### **Depositary Shares**

We may, at our option, elect to offer fractional preferred shares, rather than full preferred shares. In the event such option is exercised, we will issue receipts for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fraction (to be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the preferred shares) of a share of that series of preferred shares. The preferred shares represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company selected by us having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a preferred share represented by the depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the preferred share, represented thereby (including dividend, voting, redemption, conversion and liquidation rights). The above description of the depositary shares is only a summary, is not complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by, the description in the related prospectus supplement and the provisions of the deposit agreement, which will contain the form of depositary receipt. A copy of the deposit agreement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to, or incorporated by reference in, the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

#### **Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer**

For us to qualify as a REIT (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the **Code**)) to include certain entities), our shares of beneficial interest generally must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Also, not more than 50% of the value of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (under the Code) at any time during the last half of a taxable year (other than the first year for which an election to be a REIT has been made). This test is applied by **looking through** certain shareholders which are not individuals (e.g., corporations or partnerships) to determine indirect ownership of us by individuals.

Our Declaration of Trust contains certain restrictions on the number of our shares of beneficial interest that a person may own, subject to certain exceptions. Our Declaration of Trust provides that no

person may own, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, more than 9.8% (the Aggregate Share Ownership Limit ) of the number or value of our outstanding shares of beneficial interest. In addition, our Declaration of Trust prohibits any person from acquiring or holding, directly or indirectly, in excess of 9.8% of our total outstanding common shares, in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive (the Common Share Ownership Limit