

AMERICAN REALTY INVESTORS INC  
Form 10-K  
March 30, 2016

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

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**FORM 10-K**

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015**

**OR**

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**Commission File Number 001-15663**

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**American Realty Investors, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

<b>Nevada</b> (State or other jurisdiction of Incorporation or organization)	<b>75-2847135</b> (IRS Employer Identification Number)
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**1603 LBJ Freeway, Suite 300**

**75234**

**Dallas, Texas**  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)  
(469) 522-4200

**Registrant's Telephone Number, including area code**

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:**

<i>Title of Each Class</i>	<i>Name of each exchange on which registered</i>
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value	New York Stock Exchange

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:**

NONE

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.  
Yes    No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes    No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes    No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulations S-T (232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes    No

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Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

**Large accelerated filer**

**Non-accelerated filer**

**(Do not check if smaller reporting company)**

**Accelerated filer**

**Smaller reporting company**

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  
No

The aggregate market value of the shares of voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the Registrant, computed by reference to the closing price at which the common equity was last sold which was the sales price of the Common stock on the New York Stock Exchange as of June 30, 2015 (the last business day of the Registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter) was \$9,793,299 based upon a total of 2,019,327 shares held as of June 30, 2015 by persons believed to be non-affiliates of the Registrant. The basis of the calculation does not constitute a determination by the Registrant as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, such calculation, if made as of a date within sixty days of this filing, would yield a different value.

As of March 18, 2016, there were 15,514,360 shares of common stock outstanding.

**Documents Incorporated By Reference:**

Consolidated Financial Statements of Income Opportunity Realty Investors, Inc.; Commission File No. 001-14784

Consolidated Financial Statements of Transcontinental Realty Investors, Inc.; Commission File No. 001-09240

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**ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K**

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## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain Statements in this Form 10-K are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The words “estimate,” “plan,” “intend,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “believe,” and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements are found at various places throughout this Report and in the documents incorporated herein by reference. The Company disclaims any intention or obligations to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Although we believe that our expectations are based upon reasonable assumptions, we can give no assurance that our goals will be achieved. Important factors that could cause our actual results to differ from estimates or projections contained in any forward-looking statements are described in Part I, Item 1A. “Risk Factors”.

## PART I

### ITEM 1. *BUSINESS*

#### General

As used herein, the terms “ARL,” “the Company,” “We,” “Our,” or “Us” refer to American Realty Investors, Inc., a Nevada corporation, which was formed in 1999.

The Company is headquartered in Dallas, Texas and its common stock is listed and trades on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) under the symbol (“ARL”). Approximately 86.7% of ARL’s stock is owned by related parties. Subsidiaries of ARL own approximately 80.9% of the outstanding shares of common stock of Transcontinental Realty Investors, Inc. (“TCI”), a Nevada corporation, which has its common stock listed and traded on the NYSE under the symbol (“TCI”). Accordingly, TCI’s financial results are consolidated with those of ARL. In 2012, May Realty Holdings, Inc. (“MRHI”) subsidiaries acquired more than 80% of ARL stock and as a result, ARL is included in the MRHI consolidated group for federal income tax reporting. We have no employees.

TCI, a subsidiary of ARL, owns approximately 81.1% of the common stock of Income Opportunity Realty Investors, Inc. (“IOT”). IOT’s financial results are consolidated with those of TCI and its subsidiaries. Shares of IOT are listed and traded on the NYSE MKT under the symbol (“IOT”).

ARL's Board of Directors is responsible for directing the overall affairs of ARL and for setting the strategic policies that guide the Company. As of April 30, 2011, the Board of Directors delegated the day-to-day management of the Company to Pillar Income Asset Management, Inc. ("Pillar"), a Nevada corporation, under a written Advisory Agreement that is reviewed annually by ARL's Board of Directors. The directors of ARL are also directors of TCI and IOT. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of ARL also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of TCI and IOT. The officers of ARL also serve as officers of TCI, IOT and Pillar.

Pillar, the sole shareholder of which is Realty Advisors, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company, the sole member of which is Realty Advisors, Inc. ("RAI"), a Nevada corporation, the sole shareholder of which is May Realty Holdings, Inc. ("MRHI", formerly known as Realty Advisors Management, Inc.), a Nevada corporation, the sole shareholder of which is a trust known as the May Trust, became the Company's external Advisor and Cash Manager. Pillar's duties include, but are not limited to, locating, evaluating and recommending real estate and real estate-related investment opportunities. Pillar also arranges, for the Company's benefit, debt and equity financing with third party lenders and investors. Pillar also serves as an Advisor and Cash Manager to TCI and IOT. As the contractual advisor, Pillar is compensated by ARL under an Advisory Agreement that is more fully described in Part III, Item 10. "Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance – The Advisor". ARL has no employees. Employees of Pillar render services to ARL in accordance with the terms of the Advisory Agreement.

Regis Realty Prime, LLC, dba Regis Property Management, LLC ("Regis"), manages our commercial properties and provides brokerage services. Regis receives property management fees, construction management fees and leasing commissions in accordance with the terms of its property-level management agreement. Regis is also entitled to receive real estate brokerage commissions in accordance with the terms of a non-exclusive brokerage agreement. See Part III, Item 10. "Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance – Property Management and Real Estate Brokerage". ARL engages third-party companies to lease and manage its apartment properties.

On January 1, 2012, the Company's subsidiary, TCI, entered into a development agreement with Unified Housing Foundation, Inc. ("UHF") a non-profit corporation that provides management services for the development of residential apartment projects in the future. This development agreement was terminated December 31, 2013. The Company has also invested in surplus cash notes receivables from UHF and has sold several residential apartment properties to UHF in prior years. Due to this ongoing relationship and the significant investment in the performance of the collateral secured under the notes receivable, UHF has been determined to be a related party.

ARL through subsidiaries invests in real estate through direct ownership, leases, and partnerships and also invests in mortgage loans on real estate. Our primary business is the acquisition, development and ownership of income-producing residential and commercial real estate. In addition, we opportunistically acquire land for future development in in-fill or high-growth suburban markets. From time to time and when we believe it appropriate to do so, we will also sell land and income-producing properties. We generate revenues by leasing apartment units to residents; leasing office, industrial and retail space to various for-profit businesses as well as certain local, state and federal agencies.

At December 31, 2015, our income-producing properties consisted of:

- Nine commercial properties consisting of five office buildings, three retail properties and one industrial warehouse, comprising in aggregate approximately 2.2 million square feet;

- A golf course comprising approximately 96.09 acres;

- 48 residential apartment communities comprising 7,983 units, excluding apartments being developed.

The following table sets forth the location of our real estate held for investment (income-producing properties only) by asset type as of December 31, 2015:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Apartments</b>		<b>Commercial</b>	
	<b>No.</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>SF</b>
Alabama	1	168	—	—
Arkansas	4	678	—	—
Colorado	2	260	—	—
Florida	2	153	1	6,722
Illinois	—	—	1	306,609
Kansas	1	320	—	—
Louisiana	2	384	—	—
Mississippi	8	728	—	—
Oklahoma	—	—	—	—
Tennessee	4	708	—	—
Texas-Greater Dallas-Ft Worth	12	2,122	5	1,651,017
Texas-Greater Houston	2	416	1	94,075
Texas-San Antonio	2	468	—	—
Texas-Other	8	1,578	—	—
Wisconsin	—	—	1	122,205
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>7,983</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2,180,628</b>



We finance our acquisitions primarily through operating cash flow, proceeds from the sale of land and income-producing properties and debt financing primarily in the form of property-specific, first-lien mortgage loans from commercial banks and institutional lenders. We finance our development projects principally with short-term, variable-rate construction loans that are refinanced with the proceeds of long-term, fixed-rate amortizing mortgages when the development has been completed and occupancy has been stabilized. When we sell properties, we may carry a portion of the sales price generally in the form of a short-term, interest bearing seller-financed note receivable, secured by the property being sold. We may also from time to time enter into partnerships or joint ventures with various investors to acquire land or income-producing properties or to sell interests in certain of our properties.

We join with various third-party development companies to construct residential apartment communities. We are in the predevelopment process on several residential apartment communities but have not yet begun construction. At December 31, 2015, and as of the day of this report, we have three apartment projects in development. The third-party developer typically holds a general partner as well as a limited partner interest in a limited partnership formed for the purpose of building a single property while we generally take a limited partner interest in the limited partnership. We may contribute land to the partnership as part of our equity contribution or we may contribute the necessary funds to the partnership to acquire the land. We are required to fund all required equity contributions while the third-party developer is responsible for obtaining construction financing, hiring a general contractor and for the overall management, successful completion and delivery of the project. We generally bear all the economic risks and rewards of ownership in these partnerships and therefore include these partnerships in our consolidated financial statements. The third-party developer is paid a developer fee typically equal to a percentage of the construction costs. When the project reaches stabilized occupancy, we acquire the third-party developer's partnership interests in exchange for any remaining unpaid developer fees.

At December 31, 2015, our apartment projects in development included (dollars in thousands):

<b>Property</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Units</b>	<b>Costs to Date <sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Total Projected Costs <sup>(1)</sup></b>
Eagle Crossing	Dallas, TX	150	\$5,255	\$21,000
Parc at Mansfield II	Mansfield, TX	99	11,323	11,797
Terra Lago	Rowlett, TX	451	3,329	66,360
<b>Total</b>		<b>700</b>	<b>\$19,907</b>	<b>\$99,157</b>

(1) Costs include construction hard costs, construction soft costs and loan borrowing costs.

We have made investments in a number of large tracts of undeveloped and partially developed land and intend to a) continue to improve these tracts of land for our own development purposes or b) make the improvements necessary to ready the land for sale to other developers.

At December 31, 2015, our investments in undeveloped and partially developed land consisted of the following (dollars in thousands):

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date(s) Acquired</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Primary Intended Use</b>
McKinney, TX	1997-2008	54	9,085	Mixed use
Dallas, TX	1996-2013	192	20,562	Mixed use
Kaufman County, TX	2008	25	2,547	Multi-family residential
Farmers Branch, TX	2008	240	23,429	Mixed use
Kaufman County, TX <sup>(1)</sup>	2006	2,932	46,611	Mixed use
Various	1990-2008	369	44,711	Various
<b>Total Land Holdings</b>		<b>3,812</b>	<b>\$146,945</b>	

(1) Windmill Farms Land was acquired by a subsidiary of ARL in 2006 and 2,900 acres were subsequently sold to TCI in 2011.

### **Significant Real Estate Acquisitions/Dispositions and Financings**

A summary of some of the significant transactions for the year ended December 31, 2015 are discussed below:

**Purchases**

For the year ended December 31, 2015, the Company acquired five income-producing apartment complexes from third parties in the states of Texas (3), Tennessee (1) and Alabama (1), increasing the total number of units by 990, for a combined purchase price of \$82.9 million. In addition, the Company acquired six income-producing apartment complexes from related parties in the states of Texas (2), Florida (2), Tennessee (1) and Mississippi (1) increasing the total number of units by 835, for a combined purchase price of \$29.3 million. The Company also purchased a commercial office building in Texas, comprised of 92,723 square feet, for \$16.8 million.

### **Sales**

For the year ended December 31, 2015, the Company sold approximately 595 acres of land located in Texas to independent third parties for a total sales price of \$107.3 million. We recorded a total gain of \$18.9 million from the sales. In addition we recognized \$2.7 million in deferred gain from prior years land sales. In November 2015, the Company sold approximately 88 acres of land located in the U.S. Virgin Islands to an unrelated party. The sale represents most of the development land owned by the Company in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Total cash consideration for the sale was \$33.9 million. We recorded a gain of \$12.0 million related to the transaction.

In November 2015, the Company entered into a sales contract with an unrelated party. The contract was for most of the developable land owned by the Company in the Mercer Crossing Development located in Farmers Branch, Texas. In addition, TCI, IOT and RAI also sold land in this transaction. Total consideration for the sale was \$75 million. The ultimate allocation of sales proceeds to the parties involved is yet to be determined and will be complete when the final use of the land, certain development commitments are completed and the note is collected. The agreement between TCI and the other parties related to this transaction provides for TCI to hold the subordinated note from the buyer in the amount of \$50 million. At the closing, the note payable to related parties of \$16.1 million was paid off. Due to an inadequate down payment from the buyer and the level of seller financing involved, the transaction is being accounted for under the deposit method. Under the deposit method, no revenue is recognized and the asset sold remains on the books until the criteria for full revenue recognition are met.

In addition, one income-producing apartment complex consisting of 200 units located in Ohio was foreclosed upon. The Company recorded a gain of \$0.7 million related to the extinguishment of debt.

As of December 31, 2015, the Company has approximately 91 acres of land, at various locations that were sold to related parties in multiple transactions. These transactions are treated as “subject to sales contract” on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. Due to the related party nature of the transactions TCI has deferred the recording of the sales in accordance with ASC 360-20.

We continue to invest in the development of apartment projects. For the twelve months ended December 31, 2015, we have expended \$16.7 million related to the construction or predevelopment of various apartment complexes and capitalized \$0.2 million of interest costs.

### **Business Plan and Investment Policy**

Our business objective is to maximize long-term value for our stockholders by investing in residential and commercial real estate through the acquisition, development and ownership of apartments, commercial properties, and land. We intend to achieve this objective through acquiring and developing properties in multiple markets and operating as an industry-leading landlord. We believe this objective will provide the benefits of enhanced investment opportunities, economies of scale and risk diversification, both in terms of geographic market and real estate product type. We believe our objective will also result in continuing access to favorably priced debt and equity capital. In pursuing our business objective, we seek to achieve a combination of internal and external growth while maintaining a strong balance sheet and employing a strategy of financial flexibility. We maximize the value of our apartments and commercial properties by maintaining high occupancy levels while charging competitive rental rates, controlling costs and focusing on tenant retention. We also pursue attractive development opportunities either directly or in partnership with other investors.

For our portfolio of commercial properties, we generate increased operating cash flow through annual contractual increases in rental rates under existing leases. We also seek to identify best practices within our industry and across our business units in order to enhance cost savings and gain operating efficiencies. We employ capital improvement and preventive maintenance programs specifically designed to reduce operating costs and increase the long-term value of our real estate investments.

We seek to acquire properties consistent with our business objectives and strategies. We execute our acquisition strategy by purchasing properties which management believes will create stockholder value over the long-term. We will also sell properties when management believes value has been maximized or when a property is no longer considered an investment to be held long-term.

We are continuously in various stages of discussions and negotiations with respect to development, acquisition, and disposition projects. The consummation of any current or future development, acquisition, or disposition, if any, and the pace at which any may be completed cannot be assured or predicted.

Substantially all of our properties are owned by subsidiary companies, many of which are single-asset entities. This ownership structure permits greater access to financing for individual properties and permits flexibility in negotiating a sale of either the asset or the equity interests in the entity owning the asset. From time-to-time, our subsidiaries have invested in joint ventures with other investors, creating the possibility of risks that do not exist with properties solely owned by an ARL subsidiary. In those instances where other investors are involved, those other investors may have business, economic, or other objectives that are inconsistent with our objectives, which may in turn require us to make investment decisions different from those if we were the sole owner.

Real estate generally cannot be sold quickly. We may not be able to promptly dispose of properties in response to economic or other conditions. To offset this challenge, selective dispositions have been a part of our strategy to maintain an efficient investment portfolio and to provide additional sources of capital. We finance acquisitions through mortgages, internally generated funds, and, to a lesser extent, property sales. Those sources provide the bulk of funds for future acquisitions. We may purchase properties by assuming existing loans secured by the acquired property. When properties are acquired in such a manner, we customarily seek to refinance the asset in order to properly leverage the asset in a manner consistent with our investment objectives.

Our businesses are not generally seasonal with regard to real estate investments. Our investment strategy seeks both current income and capital appreciation. Our plan of operation is to continue, to the extent our liquidity permits, to make equity investments in income-producing real estate such as apartments, and commercial properties. We may also invest in the debt or equity securities of real estate-related entities. We intend to pursue higher risk, higher reward investments, such as improved and unimproved land where we can obtain reasonably-priced financing for substantially all of a property's purchase price. We intend to continue the development of apartment properties in selected markets in Texas and in other locations where we believe adequate levels of demand exist. We intend to pursue sales opportunities for properties in stabilized real estate markets where we believe our properties' value has been maximized. We also intend to be an opportunistic seller of properties in markets where demand exceeds current supply. Although we no longer actively seek to fund or purchase mortgage loans, we may, in selected instances, originate mortgage loans or we may provide purchase money financing in conjunction with a property sale.

Our Board of Directors has broad authority under our governing documents to make all types of investments, and we may devote available resources to particular investments or types of investments without restriction on the amount or percentage of assets that may be allocated to a single investment or to any particular type of investment, and without limit on the percentage of securities of any one issuer that may be acquired. Investment objectives and policies may be changed at any time by the Board without stockholder approval.

The specific composition from time-to-time of our real estate portfolio owned by ARL directly and through our subsidiaries depends largely on the judgment of management to changing investment opportunities and the level of risk associated with specific investments or types of investments. We intend to maintain a real estate portfolio that is diversified by both location and type of property.

## **Competition**

The real estate business is highly competitive and we compete with numerous companies engaged in real estate activities (including certain entities described in Part III, Item 13. "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence"), some of which have greater financial resources than ARL. We believe that success against such competition is dependent upon the geographic location of a property, the performance of property-level managers in areas such as leasing and marketing, collection of rents and control of operating expenses, the amount of new

construction in the area and the maintenance and appearance of the property. Additional competitive factors include ease of access to a property, the adequacy of related facilities such as parking and other amenities, and sensitivity to market conditions in determining rent levels. With respect to apartments, competition is also based upon the design and mix of the units and the ability to provide a community atmosphere for the residents. We believe that beyond general economic circumstances and trends, the degree to which properties are renovated or new properties are developed in the competing submarket are also competitive factors. See also Part I, Item 1A. "Risk Factors".

To the extent that ARL seeks to sell any of its properties, the sales prices for the properties may be affected by competition from other real estate owners and financial institutions also attempting to sell properties in areas where ARL's properties are located, as well as aggressive buyers attempting to dominate or penetrate a particular market.

As described above and in Part III, Item 13. "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence", the officers and directors of ARL serve as officers and directors of TCI and IOT. TCI and IOT have business objectives similar to those of ARL. ARL's officers and directors owe fiduciary duties to both IOT and TCI as well as to ARL under applicable law. In determining whether a particular investment opportunity will be allocated to ARL, IOT, or TCI, management considers the respective investment objectives of each Company and the appropriateness of a particular investment in light of each Company's existing real estate and mortgage notes receivable portfolio. To the extent that any particular investment opportunity is appropriate to more than one of the entities, the investment opportunity may be allocated to the entity which has had funds available for investment for the longest period of time, or, if appropriate, the investment may be shared among all three or two of the entities.

In addition, as described in Part III, Item 13. "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence", ARL competes with related parties of Pillar having similar investment objectives related to the acquisition, development, disposition, leasing and financing of real estate and real estate-related investments. In resolving any potential conflicts of interest which may arise, Pillar has informed ARL that it intends to exercise its best judgment as to what is fair and reasonable under the circumstances in accordance with applicable law.

We have historically engaged in and will continue to engage in certain business transactions with related parties, including but not limited to asset acquisitions and dispositions. Transactions involving related parties cannot be presumed to be carried out on an arm's length basis due to the absence of free market forces that naturally exist in business dealings between two or more unrelated entities. Related party transactions may not always be favorable to our business and may include terms, conditions and agreements that are not necessarily beneficial to or in the best interests of the Company.

## Available Information

ARL maintains an Internet site at <http://www.amrealtytrust.com>. Available through the website, free of charge, are Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, reports filed pursuant to Section 16, and amendments to those reports, as soon as reasonably practicable after they are electronically filed or furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, we have posted the charters for the Audit Committee, Compensation Committee, and Governance and Nominating Committee, as well as the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, Corporate Governance Guidelines on Director Independence, and other information on the website. These charters and principles are not incorporated in this report by reference. We will also provide a copy of these documents free of charge to stockholders upon written request. The Company issues Annual Reports containing audited financial statements to its common shareholders.

## ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves various risks. All investors should carefully consider the following risk factors in conjunction with the other information in this report before trading our securities.

### Risk Factors Related to our Business

*Adverse events concerning our existing tenants or negative market conditions affecting our existing tenants could have an adverse impact on our ability to attract new tenants, release space, collect rent or renew leases, and thus could adversely affect cash flow from operations and inhibit growth.*

Cash flow from operations depends in part on the ability to lease space to tenants on economically favorable terms. We could be adversely affected by various facts and events over which the Company has limited or no control, such as:

- lack of demand for space in areas where the properties are located;
- inability to retain existing tenants and attract new tenants;
- oversupply of or reduced demand for space and changes in market rental rates;



defaults by tenants or failure to pay rent on a timely basis;

the need to periodically renovate and repair marketable space;

physical damage to properties;

economic or physical decline of the areas where properties are located; and

potential risk of functional obsolescence of properties over time.

At any time, any tenant may experience a downturn in its business that may weaken its financial condition. As a result, a tenant may delay lease commencement, fail to make rental payments when due, decline to extend a lease upon its expiration, become insolvent or declare bankruptcy. Any tenant bankruptcy or insolvency, leasing delay or failure to make rental payments when due could result in the termination of the tenant's lease and material losses to the Company.

If tenants do not renew their leases as they expire, we may not be able to rent the space. Furthermore, leases that are renewed, and some new leases for space that is re-let, may have terms that are less economically favorable than expiring lease terms, or may require us to incur significant costs, such as renovations, tenant improvements or lease transaction costs. Any of these events could adversely affect cash flow from operations and our ability to make distributions to shareholders and service indebtedness. A significant portion of the costs of owning property, such as real estate taxes, insurance, and debt service payments, are not necessarily reduced when circumstances cause a decrease in rental income from the properties.

***We may not be able to compete successfully with other entities that operate in our industry.***

We experience a great deal of competition in attracting tenants for the properties and in locating land to develop and properties to acquire.

In our effort to lease properties, we compete for tenants with a broad spectrum of other landlords in each of the markets. These competitors include, among others, publicly-held REITs, privately-held entities, individual property owners and tenants who wish to sublease their space. Some of these competitors may be able to offer prospective tenants more attractive financial terms than we are able to offer.

If the availability of land or high quality properties in our markets diminishes, operating results could be adversely affected.



*We may experience increased operating costs which could adversely affect our financial results and the value of our properties.*

Our properties are subject to increases in operating expenses such as insurance, cleaning, electricity, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, administrative costs and other costs associated with security, landscaping, repairs, and maintenance of the properties. While some current tenants are obligated by their leases to reimburse us for a portion of these costs, there is no assurance that these tenants will make such payments or agree to pay these costs upon renewal or new tenants will agree to pay these costs. If operating expenses increase in our markets, we may not be able to increase rents or reimbursements in all of these markets to offset the increased expenses, without at the same time decreasing occupancy rates. If this occurs, our ability to make distributions to shareholders and service indebtedness could be adversely affected.

*Our ability to achieve growth in operating income depends in part on its ability to develop additional properties.*

We intend to continue to develop properties where warranted by market conditions. We have a number of ongoing development and land projects being readied for commencement.

Additionally, general construction and development activities include the following risks:

- construction and leasing of a property may not be completed on schedule, which could result in increased expenses and construction costs, and would result in reduced profitability for that property;

- construction costs may exceed original estimates due to increases in interest rates and increased cost of materials, labor or other costs, possibly making the property less profitable because of inability to increase rents to compensate for the increase in construction costs;

- some developments may fail to achieve expectations, possibly making them less profitable;

- we may be unable to obtain, or face delays in obtaining, required zoning, land-use, building, occupancy, and other governmental permits and authorizations, which could result in increased costs and could require us to abandon our activities entirely with respect to a project;

- we may abandon development opportunities after the initial exploration, which may result in failure to recover costs already incurred. If we determine to alter or discontinue its development efforts, future costs

of the investment may be expensed as incurred rather than capitalized and we may determine the investment is impaired resulting in a loss;

- we may expend funds on and devote management's time to projects which will not be completed; and

occupancy rates and rents at newly-completed properties may fluctuate depending on various factors including market and economic conditions, and may result in lower than projected rental rates and reduced income from operations.

***We face risks associated with property acquisitions.***

We acquire individual properties and various portfolios of properties and intend to continue to do so. Acquisition activities are subject to the following risks:

· when we are able to locate a desired property, competition from other real estate investors may significantly increase the seller's offering price;

· acquired properties may fail to perform as expected;

- the actual costs of repositioning or redeveloping acquired properties may be higher than original estimates;

· acquired properties may be located in new markets where we face risks associated with an incomplete knowledge or understanding of the local market, a limited number of established business relationships in the area and a relative unfamiliarity with local governmental and permitting procedures; and

· we may be unable to quickly and efficiently integrate new acquisitions, particularly acquisitions of portfolios of properties, into existing operations, and results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected.

We may acquire properties subject to liabilities and without any recourse, or with limited recourse, with respect to unknown liabilities. However, if an unknown liability was later asserted against the acquired properties, we might be required to pay substantial sums to settle it, which could adversely affect cash flow.

***Many of our properties are concentrated in our primary markets and the Company may suffer economic harm as a result of adverse conditions in those markets.***

Our properties are located principally in specific geographic areas in the southwestern, southeastern, and mid-western United States. The Company's overall performance is largely dependent on economic conditions in those regions.

***We are leveraged and may not be able to meet our debt service obligations.***

We had total indebtedness at December 31, 2015 of approximately \$821.5 million. Substantially all assets have been pledged to secure debt. These borrowings increase the risk of loss because they represent a prior claim on assets and most require fixed payments regardless of profitability. Our leveraged position makes us vulnerable to declines in the general economy and may limit the Company's ability to pursue other business opportunities in the future.

***We may not be able to access financial markets to obtain capital on a timely basis, or on acceptable terms.***

We rely on proceeds from property dispositions and third party capital sources for a portion of our capital needs, including capital for acquisitions and development. The public debt and equity markets are also among the sources upon which the Company relies. There is no guarantee that we will be able to access these markets or any other source of capital. The ability to access the public debt and equity markets depends on a variety of factors, including:

- general economic conditions affecting these markets;
- our own financial structure and performance;
- the market's opinion of real estate companies in general; and
- the market's opinion of real estate companies that own similar properties.

***We may suffer adverse effects as a result of terms and covenants relating to the Company's indebtedness.***

Required payments on our indebtedness generally are not reduced if the economic performance of the portfolio declines. If the economic performance declines, net income, cash flow from operations and cash available for distribution to stockholders may be reduced. If payments on debt cannot be made, we could sustain a loss or suffer judgments, or in the case of mortgages, suffer foreclosures by mortgagees. Further, some obligations contain cross-default and/or cross-acceleration provisions, which means that a default on one obligation may constitute a default on other obligations.

We anticipate only a small portion of the principal of our debt will be repaid prior to maturity. Therefore, we are likely to refinance a portion of our outstanding debt as it matures. There is a risk that we may not be able to refinance existing debt or the terms of any refinancing will not be as favorable as the terms of the maturing debt. If principal balances due at maturity cannot be refinanced, extended, or repaid with proceeds from other sources, such as the proceeds of sales of assets or new equity capital, cash flow may not be sufficient to repay all maturing debt in years when significant “balloon” payments come due.

Our credit facilities and unsecured debt contain customary restrictions, requirements and other limitations on the ability to incur indebtedness, including total debt to asset ratios, secured debt to total asset ratios, debt service coverage ratios, and minimum ratios of unencumbered assets to unsecured debt. Our continued ability to borrow is subject to compliance with financial and oth