

WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC
Form 8-K
March 31, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) March 19, 2004

Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

0-25739
(Commission File Number)

58-2328421
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

6200 The Corners Parkway, Suite 250, Norcross, Georgia 30092

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(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (770) 449-7800

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Item 5. Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure

On or about March 12, 2004, a putative class action complaint relating to Wells Real Estate Fund I, a public limited partnership offered to the public from 1984 through 1986 (Wells Fund I), was filed by four limited partners holding Class B Units in Wells Fund I against Leo F. Wells, III, the president and a director of the Registrant, Wells Capital, Inc., the advisor, Wells Investment Securities, Inc., the dealer manager, Wells Management Company, Inc., the property manager, and Wells Fund I (Wells Defendants) (Hendry et al. v. Leo F. Wells, III et al., Superior Court of Gwinnett County, Georgia Civil Action No. 04-A-2791 2). The Wells Defendants received notice of the complaint on or about March 19, 2004. The plaintiffs filed the complaint purportedly on behalf of all limited partners holding Class B units in Wells Fund I as of January 15, 2003. The complaint alleges, among other things, that (a) during the offering period (September 6, 1984 through September 5, 1986), Mr. Wells, Wells Capital, Inc., Wells Investment Securities, Inc., and Wells Fund I negligently and/or fraudulently made false statements and/or made material omissions in connection with the initial sale of the Class B units to investors of Wells Fund I by making false statements or omissions in the Wells Fund I sales literature relating to the distribution of net sale proceeds to holders of Class B units; (b) Mr. Wells, Wells Capital, Inc. and Wells Fund I negligently and/or fraudulently misrepresented and/or concealed disclosure of, among other things, alleged discrepancies between such statements and the allocations in the partnership agreement for a period of time in order to raise money for future syndications and to delay such investors from taking any legal, equitable or other action to protect their investments in Wells Fund I; and (c) Mr. Wells, Wells Capital, Inc. and Wells Fund I breached their fiduciary duties to the limited partners. The plaintiffs seek, among other remedies, the following: rescission of all class members purchases of Class B units and an order for a full refund of all money paid for such units together with interest; judgment against the Wells Defendants, jointly and severally, in an amount to be proven at trial; punitive damages; judicial dissolution of Wells Fund I and the appointment of a receiver to wind up and terminate the partnership; and an award to plaintiffs of their attorneys fees, costs and expenses. Due to the uncertainties inherent in the litigation process, it is not possible to predict the ultimate outcome of this matter at this time; however, an adverse outcome could adversely affect the ability of Wells Capital, Inc. and Mr. Wells to fulfill their duties under the agreements and relationships they have with the Registrant.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this Current Report on Form 8-K to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT

TRUST, INC. (Registrant)

By: /s/ Leo F. Wells, III

Leo F. Wells, III
President

Date: March 31, 2004