

American Homes 4 Rent
Form 424B5
August 14, 2017
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**Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-219720**

This preliminary prospectus supplement relates to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, but the information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, dated August 14, 2017

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To prospectus dated August 4, 2017)

10,000,000 CLASS A COMMON SHARES

We are offering 10,000,000 Class A common shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value per share, or our Class A common shares.

Our Class A common shares trade on the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, under the symbol AMH. On August 11, 2017, the last sale price of the Class A common shares as reported on the NYSE was \$22.06 per share.

Investing in our Class A common shares involves certain risks. See **Risk Factors** beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement and in the reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, to read about factors you should consider before making an investment in our Class A common shares.

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

the contrary is a criminal offense.

The underwriters have agreed to purchase the Class A common shares from us at a price of \$ per Class A common share, which will result in approximately \$ million of proceeds, before expenses, to us. The underwriters may offer the Class A common shares from time to time for sale in one or more transactions on the NYSE, in the over-the-counter market, through negotiated transactions or otherwise at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices, subject to receipt and acceptance by it and subject to its right to reject any order in whole or in part. See Underwriting.

The underwriters may also purchase up to an additional 1,500,000 Class A common shares from us at a price of \$ per Class A common share within 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement. If this option is exercised in full, it would result in approximately \$ million of additional proceeds, before expenses, to us.

The Class A common shares will be ready for delivery on or about August , 2017.

BofA Merrill Lynch

Citigroup

The date of this prospectus supplement is August , 2017.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first part is the prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus supplement, on the one hand, and the information contained in the accompanying prospectus, on the other hand, the information in this prospectus supplement shall control. In addition, any statement in a filing we make with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, that adds to, updates or changes information contained in an earlier filing we made with the SEC shall be deemed to modify and supersede such information in the earlier filing.

This prospectus supplement does not contain all of the information that is important to you. You should read this document together with additional information described under the headings *Where You Can Find More Information* and *Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference* in this prospectus supplement. You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this document. Neither we nor the underwriters have authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. You should assume that the information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as well as the information we have previously filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference in this document, is accurate only as of its date or the date which is specified in those documents.

Unless the context requires otherwise, we define certain terms in this prospectus supplement as follows:

We, our company, the Company, the REIT, our and us refer to American Homes 4 Rent, a Maryland real estate investment trust, and its subsidiaries taken as a whole (including our operating partnership and its subsidiaries).

Our operating partnership refers to American Homes 4 Rent, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership, and its subsidiaries taken as a whole.

AH LLC refers to American Homes 4 Rent, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, which was liquidated on August 31, 2016, with its assets, including Class A common shares, Class B common shares, Class A units and Class D units, distributed to its members, which include members of our executive team, board of trustees and HF Investments 2010, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company managed by David P. Singelyn, our Chief Executive Officer and a trustee.

You refers to a prospective investor.

In this prospectus supplement, unless otherwise indicated, the number of Class A common shares outstanding does not include the following:

3,133,450 of our Class A common shares issuable upon exercise of options and 251,425 restricted stock units previously granted under the 2012 Incentive Plan that vest ratably over a period of four years from the date of

grant and expire 10 years from the date of grant;

2,615,125 Class A common shares available for issuance in the future under the 2012 Incentive Plan, subject to certain contingencies; and

55,548,778 aggregate Class A units. In general, beginning 12 months after the date of issuance, holders of our Class A units have the right to require our operating partnership to redeem part or all of their Class A units for cash or, at our election, our Class A common shares on a one-for-one basis.

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PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein. It does not contain all of the information that you may consider important in making your investment decision. Therefore, you should read carefully this entire prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including each of the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, and the Risk Factors section beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement.

Our Company

American Homes 4 Rent is an internally managed Maryland REIT focused on acquiring, renovating, leasing and operating single-family homes as rental properties. We commenced operations in November 2012 to take advantage of the dislocation in the single-family home market. We have an integrated operating platform that consists of approximately 1,039 personnel as of June 30, 2017, dedicated to acquisition, property management, marketing, leasing, financial and administrative functions.

As of June 30, 2017, we owned 48,982 single-family properties in 22 states, including 582 properties held for sale. As of June 30, 2017, 46,089, or 95.2% of our total properties (excluding held for sale properties) were leased.

We believe we have become a leader in the single-family home rental industry by aggregating a geographically diversified portfolio of high-quality single-family homes and developing American Homes 4 Rent into a nationally recognized brand that is well-known for quality, value and tenant satisfaction and is well respected in our communities. Our investments may be made directly or through investment vehicles with third-party investors. In addition to individual property purchases, we may pursue bulk acquisitions from financial institutions, government agencies and competitors. We may also build some of our properties to our rental specifications. Our objective is to generate attractive, risk-adjusted returns for our shareholders through dividends and capital appreciation.

We believe that we have been organized and have operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under U.S. federal income tax laws for each of our taxable years commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2012, through the taxable year ended December 31, 2016. We expect to satisfy the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the U.S. federal income tax laws for our taxable year ending December 31, 2017, and subsequent taxable years.

Our principal executive office is located at 30601 Agoura Road, Suite 200, Agoura Hills, California 91301. Our main telephone number is (805) 413-5300. Our website address is www.americanhomes4rent.com. The information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference in or otherwise a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

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THE OFFERING

Issuer	American Homes 4 Rent, a Maryland REIT
Securities offered by us	10,000,000 Class A common shares (11,500,000 shares if the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares from us is exercised in full)
Class A common shares outstanding immediately prior to this offering	259,691,986 Class A common shares
Class A common shares to be outstanding after this offering	Class A common shares
Use of Proceeds	We estimate that the net proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$ million (or approximately \$ million if the underwriters exercise in full their option to purchase additional Class A common shares), after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and our estimated offering expenses. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering (i) to repay indebtedness we have incurred or expect to incur under our revolving credit facility and our term loan facility (together, our Facilities), (ii) to acquire and renovate single-family properties and for related activities in accordance with our business strategy and (iii) for working capital and general corporate purposes, including repurchases of our Class A common shares pursuant to our existing share repurchase program. The foregoing application may be effected through our operating partnership by our contributing a portion of the net proceeds to our operating partnership in exchange for Class A partnership units. See Use of Proceeds in this prospectus supplement.
Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer	To assist us in qualifying as a REIT, our declaration of trust generally limits beneficial ownership by any person to no more than 8.0% in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the outstanding common shares. In addition, our declaration of trust contains various other restrictions on the ownership and transfer of our common shares. See Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer in the accompanying prospectus for additional information about these restrictions.

Risk Factors

Investing in our Class A common shares involves a high degree of risk and the purchasers of our Class A common shares may lose their entire investment. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-4 and the other information included and incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of risk factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our Class A common shares.

Listing

Our Class A common shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol AMH.

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RISK FACTORS

*An investment in our Class A common shares involves a high degree of risk. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider the following risk factors, together with the other information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2017 and June 30, 2017 and other documents filed by us with the SEC that are deemed incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, before making an investment decision. These risks are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations. If any of these risks occur, our business, prospects, financial condition, results of operations and our ability to make cash distributions to our shareholders could be materially and adversely affected. In that case, the trading price of our Class A common shares could decline significantly, and you could lose all or part of your investment. Some statements in this prospectus supplement, including statements in the following risk factors, constitute forward-looking statements. Please refer to the section entitled *Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements*.*

Risks Related to This Offering

The market price and trading volume of our Class A common shares may fluctuate substantially and be volatile due to numerous factors beyond our control.

The stock markets, including the NYSE, on which our Class A common shares are listed, historically have experienced significant price and volume fluctuations. As a result, the market price of our Class A common shares is likely to be similarly volatile, and investors in our Class A common shares may experience a decrease in the value of their shares, including decreases unrelated to our operating performance or prospects. The market price of our Class A common shares could be subject to wide fluctuations in response to a number of factors, including those listed in this

Risk Factors section of this prospectus supplement, our financial performance, government regulatory action or inaction, tax laws, interest rates and general market conditions and other factors such as:

actual or anticipated variations in our quarterly operating results, financial condition, liquidity or changes in business strategy or prospects;

equity issuances by us or resales by our shareholders, or the perception that such issuances or resales may occur;

increases in market interest rates that may lead investors to demand a higher dividend yield or seek alternative investments paying higher rates;

publication of research reports about us or the real estate industry;

changes in market valuations of similar companies;

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

additions or departures of key personnel;

actions by shareholders;

speculation in the press or investment community;

general market, economic and political conditions, including an economic slowdown or dislocation in the global credit or capital markets;

our operating performance and the performance of other similar companies;

failure to maintain our REIT qualification;

changes in accounting principles or actual or anticipated accounting problems; and

passage of legislation or other regulatory developments that adversely affect us or our industry.

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In the past, securities class action litigation has often been instituted against companies following periods of volatility in the price of their common shares. This type of litigation could result in substantial costs and divert our management's attention and resources, which could have a material adverse effect on our cash flows, our ability to execute our business strategy and our ability to make distributions to our shareholders.

Members of our executive team, our board of trustees, HF Investments 2010, LLC and APFC collectively own a significant amount of our Class A common shares or OP units exchangeable for our Class A common shares, and future sales by these holders of our Class A common shares, or the perception that such sales could occur in the future, could have a material adverse effect on the market price of our Class A common shares.

Members of our executive team, our board of trustees and HF Investments 2010, LLC beneficially own an aggregate of approximately 27.2% of our outstanding Class A common shares as of June 30, 2017, assuming that all of the Company's OP units are redeemed for Class A common shares. Future sales by these holders of our Class A common shares, or the perception that such sales could occur in the future, could have a material adverse effect on the market price of our Class A common shares.

Under the terms of a registration rights agreement we entered into with AH LLC in 2013, the former members of AH LLC (the registration rights holders) that became holders of record of the Class A common shares and securities convertible into Class A common shares upon the liquidation of AH LLC have a right to request that we file and maintain a shelf registration statement to register for resale the Class A common shares and securities convertible into Class A common shares that are held by the registration rights holders. In addition, the registration rights holders have the right to request that we cooperate with them in up to three underwritten offerings of our Class A common shares under the shelf registration statement, provided such right may be invoked not more often than once every six months (subject to suspension rights in favor of the Company) and each such underwritten offering generally must yield gross proceeds to the registration rights holders of not less than \$100 million per offering. Finally, the registration rights holders have unlimited piggyback registration rights to include the Class A common shares and securities convertible into Class A common shares that the registration rights holders own in other registration statements that we may initiate, subject to certain conditions and limitations (including cut-back rights in favor of the Company).

Future sales of our Class A common shares or other securities convertible into our Class A common shares could cause the market value of our Class A common shares to decline and could result in dilution of your shares.

Our board of trustees is authorized, without shareholder approval, to cause us to issue additional common shares or to raise capital through the issuance of preferred shares (including equity or debt securities convertible into Class A common shares), options, warrants and other rights, on terms and for consideration as our board of trustees in its sole discretion may determine. Sales of substantial amounts of our Class A common shares or the issuance of preferred shares, options, warrants and other rights, or the perception that such sales or issuances could occur, could cause the market price of our Class A common shares to decrease significantly. As of August 11, 2017, we had 259,691,986 Class A common shares issued and outstanding. We cannot predict the effect, if any, of future sales of our Class A common shares, the issuance of preferred shares, options, warrants and other rights or the availability of our Class A common shares for future sales on the value of our Class A common shares.

Future issuances of our or our operating partnership's debt and equity securities that rank senior to our Class A common shares may adversely affect the market price of our Class A common shares.

We currently have outstanding Series A participating preferred shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value, or Series A Participating Preferred Shares, Series B participating preferred shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value, or Series B Participating Preferred Shares, Series C participating preferred shares of beneficial interest,

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\$0.01 par value, or Series C Participating Preferred Shares, Series D cumulative redeemable perpetual preferred shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value, or Series D Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, Series E cumulative redeemable perpetual preferred shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value, or Series E Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, Series F cumulative redeemable perpetual preferred shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value, or Series F Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, and Series G cumulative redeemable perpetual preferred shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value, or Series G Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares. Each series of preferred shares ranks senior to our Class A common shares. Additionally, we and our operating partnership are permitted, without shareholder approval, to issue additional debt or equity securities that have priority over our Class A common shares. Upon bankruptcy or liquidation, holders of our or our operating partnership's debt securities and preferred shares or units and lenders with respect to other borrowings will receive a distribution of our available assets prior to the holders of our Class A common shares. Our preferred shares have, and any future debt or preferred securities could have, a preference on liquidating distributions or a preference on dividend payments or both that limit our ability to pay a dividend or other distribution to the holders of our Class A common shares. Our decision to issue securities in the future will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control. As a result, we cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing or nature of our future issuances, and purchasers of our Class A common shares in this offering bear the risk of our future issuances reducing the market price of our Class A common shares and diluting their ownership interest in our company.

An increase in market interest rates may have an adverse effect on the market price of our Class A common shares and our ability to pay distributions to our shareholders.

One of the factors that investors may consider in deciding whether to buy or sell our Class A common shares is the dividend rate of such securities relative to market interest rates. If market interest rates increase, prospective investors may seek alternative investments paying higher dividends or interest. As a result, interest rate fluctuations and capital market conditions can affect the market price of our Class A common shares. In addition, to the extent we have variable rate debt, rising interest rates would result in increased interest expense on our variable rate debt, thereby adversely affecting our cash flow and our ability to service our indebtedness and pay distributions to our shareholders.

The availability and timing of cash distributions is uncertain.

Our board of trustees determines the amount and timing of distributions. In making this determination, our trustees will consider all relevant factors, including the amount of cash available for distribution, our level of taxable income, capital expenditures, applicable laws, general operational requirements and the preferential distribution rights of holders of our outstanding preferred shares of beneficial interest. We intend over time to make regular quarterly distributions to holders of our Class A common shares. However, we bear all expenses incurred by our operations, and the funds generated by our operations, after deducting these expenses, may not be sufficient to cover desired levels of distributions to our shareholders. In addition, the holders of shares of any class or series of preferred shares of beneficial interest outstanding, including our Series A Participating Preferred Shares, our Series B Participating Preferred Shares, our Series C Participating Preferred Shares, our Series D Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, our Series E Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, our Series F Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares and our Series G Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, as well as any additional class or series of preferred shares of beneficial interest that we may issue, unless the terms of such class or series provide otherwise, have preferential distribution rights to the holders of our Class A common shares. In addition, our board of trustees, in its discretion, may retain any portion of such cash in excess of the amount required to satisfy the REIT distribution requirements for working capital. We cannot assure you that sufficient cash will be available to make distributions to you. We may be unable to pay, maintain or increase distributions over time.

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There are many factors that can affect the availability and timing of cash distributions to shareholders. Because we may receive income from interest or rents at various times during our fiscal year, distributions paid may not

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reflect our income earned in that particular distribution period. The amount of cash available for distributions will be affected by many factors, including without limitation, the amount of time it takes for us to deploy the net proceeds of this offering in our target assets, the amount of income we earn from those investments, the levels of our operating expense and many other variables. Actual cash available for distribution may vary substantially from estimates.

While we intend to fund the payment of quarterly distributions to our shareholders entirely from distributable cash flows, we may fund our quarterly distributions to our shareholders from a combination of available net cash flows, equity capital and proceeds from borrowings. In the event we are unable to consistently fund future quarterly distributions to our shareholders entirely from distributable cash flows, the value of our shares may be negatively impacted.

Our ability to pay dividends is limited by the requirements of Maryland law.

Our ability to pay dividends on our Class A common shares is limited by Maryland law. Under applicable Maryland law, a Maryland REIT generally 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, unless the REIT's declaration of trust provides otherwise, 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 generally may not make a distribution on Class A common 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 class or series of preferred shares of beneficial interest then outstanding, including our Series A Participating Preferred Shares, our Series B Participating Preferred Shares, our Series C Participating Preferred Shares, our Series D Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, our Series E Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, our Series F Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares and our Series G Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, as well as any additional class or series of preferred shares of beneficial interest that we may issue, unless the terms of such class or series provide otherwise.

Risks Related to Qualification and Operation as a REIT

Ownership limitations may restrict business combination opportunities

In order for us to maintain our qualification as a REIT for U.S. federal income tax purposes, not more than 50% in value of our outstanding shares may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (taking into account certain constructive ownership rules) at any time during the last half of any taxable year (other than our first taxable year) or during a proportionate part of any shorter taxable year. In addition, our shares must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of each taxable year or during a proportionate part of any shorter taxable year. For the purpose of preserving our qualification as a real estate investment trust, our declaration of trust contains certain restrictions on the acquisition of common shares and preferred shares to ensure compliance with these requirements. These restrictions could have the effect of delaying, deferring, or preventing a transaction which holders of some, or a majority, of the common shares or preferred shares might believe to be in their best interests.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds from this offering will be approximately \$ million (or approximately \$ million if the underwriters exercise in full their option to purchase additional Class A common shares), after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and our estimated offering expenses.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering (i) to repay indebtedness we have incurred or expect to incur under our Facilities, (ii) to acquire and renovate single-family properties and for related activities in accordance with our business strategy and (iii) for working capital and general corporate purposes, including repurchases of our Class A common shares pursuant to our existing share repurchase program. The foregoing application may be effected through our operating partnership by our contributing a portion of the net proceeds to our operating partnership in exchange for Class A partnership units.

At August 11, 2017, we had no borrowings outstanding under our revolving credit facility and approximately \$200 million of borrowings outstanding under our term loan facility. Borrowings under our revolving credit facility have an initial maturity date of June 30, 2021 but may be extended by the Company for up to one year under certain conditions. Our term loan facility matures on June 30, 2022. All borrowings under our revolving credit facility bear interest at either a LIBOR rate plus a margin ranging from 0.825% to 1.55% or a base rate (generally determined according to a prime rate or federal funds rate) plus a margin ranging from 0.00% to 0.55% and all borrowings under our term loan facility bear interest at a per annum rate equal to either a LIBOR rate plus a margin ranging from 0.90% to 1.75% or a base rate plus a margin ranging from 0.00% to 0.75%. Borrowings under our Facilities were used to acquire single-family properties and for general corporate purposes.

Pending application of cash proceeds, our operating partnership will invest the net proceeds from this offering in interest-bearing accounts and short-term, interest-bearing securities in a manner that is consistent with our intention to qualify for taxation as a REIT.

Certain affiliates of the underwriters are lenders under our Facilities. As described above, our operating partnership may use a portion of the net proceeds from this offering to repay the borrowings outstanding from time to time under our Facilities. As a result, such affiliates will receive their proportionate share of any amount of the Facilities that is repaid with the proceeds of this offering.

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We have entered into an underwriting agreement with Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Citigroup Global Markets Inc., as underwriters, with respect to the Class A common shares subject to this offering. Subject to the terms and conditions in the underwriting agreement, we have agreed to sell to the underwriters, and each underwriter has, severally and not jointly, agreed to purchase from us the respective number of Class A common shares set forth opposite its name in the table below:

Underwriters	Number of Shares
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	
Total	10,000,000

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligation of the underwriters to purchase all of the Class A common shares being offered to the public is subject to approval of legal matters by counsel and the satisfaction of other conditions. These conditions include, among others, the continued accuracy of representations and warranties made by us in the underwriting agreement, delivery of legal opinions and the absence of any material changes in our assets, business or prospects after the date of this prospectus supplement. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all of our Class A common shares in this offering.

Pursuant to the underwriting agreement, we have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments which the underwriters or other indemnified parties may be required to make in respect of any such liabilities.

Commissions and Expenses

The underwriters may receive from purchasers of the Class A common shares normal brokerage commissions in amounts agreed with such purchasers.

The underwriters are purchasing the shares of common stock from us at \$ _____ per share (representing approximately \$ _____ aggregate proceeds to us, before we deduct our out-of-pocket expenses of approximately \$ _____, or approximately \$ _____ if the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares described below is exercised in full).

The underwriters propose to offer the Class A common shares offered hereby from time to time for sale in one or more transactions on the NYSE, in the over-the-counter market, through negotiated transactions or otherwise at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices, subject to receipt and acceptance by the underwriters and subject to the underwriter's right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject any order in whole or in part. The underwriters may effect such transactions by selling the Class A common shares to or through dealers and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or purchasers of Class A common shares for whom they may act as agents or to whom they may sell as principal. The difference between the price at which the underwriters purchase Class A common shares and the price at which the underwriters resell such Class A common shares may be deemed underwriting compensation.

The expenses of the offering are estimated at approximately \$150,000 and are payable by us.

Option to Purchase Additional Class A Common Shares

We have granted an option to the underwriters to purchase up to 1,500,000 additional Class A common shares at the price set forth above. The underwriters may exercise this option for 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement.

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No Sales of Similar Securities

The underwriting agreement provides that we, our executive officers and trustees, and certain of our affiliates will not, for a period of 60 days following the date of this prospectus supplement, offer, sell or distribute any of our Class A common shares or any securities that are substantially similar to the Class A common shares, without the prior written consent of the underwriters. Specifically, we and these other persons have agreed, with certain limited exceptions, not to directly or indirectly:

offer, pledge, sell or contract to sell any Class A common shares,

sell any option or contract to purchase any Class A common shares,

purchase any option or contract to sell any Class A common shares,

grant any option, right or warrant for the sale of any Class A common shares,

lend or otherwise dispose of or transfer any Class A common shares,

request or demand that we file a registration statement related to the Class A common shares, or

enter into any swap or other agreement that transfers, in whole or in part, the economic consequence of ownership of any Class A common shares whether any such swap or transaction is to be settled by delivery of Class A common shares or other securities, in cash or otherwise.

Notwithstanding the above, the underwriters have agreed that the restrictions described above shall apply to any public or private sale by us of convertible or participating preferred shares, provided that the restricted period for any such sale shall end 30 days following the date of this prospectus supplement. The restrictions described above shall not apply to the issuance by us of Class A common shares of up to 10% of our total outstanding Class A common shares and up to 10% of our operating partnership's total outstanding units (excluding units held by us) in connection with any acquisition transaction and the filing of a registration statement on Form S-4 relating to such Class A common shares or units; provided, however, that any recipient of such shares or units so issued in connection with any such acquisition transaction, if such shares are to be issued during the 60-day period after the date of this prospectus supplement, shall agree to be subject to the foregoing lockup restrictions for the remainder of the 60-day restricted period. On or after October 2, 2017, we are permitted to convert our outstanding Series A Participating Preferred Shares and/or Series B Participating Preferred Shares and issue Class A common shares pursuant to such conversion in accordance with the respective terms of such preferred shares; provided that the total amount of Class A common shares issuable upon conversion of such preferred shares shall not exceed 13,000,000 Class A common shares in the aggregate. We have agreed not to waive or otherwise modify this agreement without the prior written consent of the underwriters.

In addition, notwithstanding the lock-up agreements applicable to our trustees and executive officers, the underwriters have agreed to certain specified exceptions, including permitting our executive officers and trustees to (i) sell or transfer Class A common shares or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for Class A common shares pursuant to a transaction not involving a public offering exemption and (ii) transfer Class A common shares or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for Class A common shares to trusts for the benefit of their immediate family or by gift, provided that, in the case of clauses (i) and (ii), the recipient of such securities during the 60-day period after the date of this prospectus supplement shall agree to be subject to the foregoing lockup restrictions for the remainder of the 60-day restricted period. This lock-up provision applies to Class A common shares and to securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for or repayable with Class A common shares, whether owned now or acquired later by the person executing the agreement or for which the person executing the agreement later acquires the power of disposition.

In the event that we notify the underwriters in writing that we do not intend to proceed with this offering, if the underwriting agreement does not become effective, or if the underwriting agreement is terminated prior to payment for and delivery of our Class A common shares, the lockup provisions will be released.

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Stabilization

Until the distribution of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement is completed, rules of the SEC may limit the ability of the underwriters to bid for and to purchase our Class A common shares. As an exception to these rules, the underwriters may engage in transactions effected in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act that are intended to stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of our Class A common shares. The underwriters may engage in short sales, syndicate covering transactions, stabilizing transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M.

Stabilizing transactions permit bids or purchases for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the Class A common shares, so long as stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

Allotment involves sales by the underwriters of securities in excess of the number of securities the underwriters are obligated to purchase, which creates a short position. In a short position, the number of Class A common shares involved is greater than the number of shares it is required to purchase in the offering. The underwriters may close out any short position by purchasing our Class A common shares in the open market.

Covering transactions involve the purchase of securities in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions. If the underwriters sell more Class A common shares than they are required to purchase in the offering, creating a short position, the position can only be closed out by buying securities in the open market. A short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there could be downward pressure on the price of the securities in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in this offering.

Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a selected dealer when the securities originally sold by the selected dealer are purchased in a stabilizing or syndicate covering transaction. These stabilizing transactions, covering transactions and penalty bids may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our securities or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of our Class A common shares. As a result, the price of our securities may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market.

Neither we nor the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the effect that the transactions described above may have on the prices of our securities. These transactions may occur on any trading market. If any of these transactions are commenced, they may be discontinued without notice at any time.

NYSE Listing

Our Class A common shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol AMH.

Electronic Offer, Sale and Distribution of Securities

This prospectus supplement may be made available in electronic format on Internet sites or through other online services maintained by the underwriters or their affiliates. In those cases, prospective investors may view offering terms online and may be allowed to place orders online. Other than this prospectus supplement in electronic format,

any information on the underwriters or their affiliates' websites and any information contained in any other website maintained by the underwriters or any affiliate of the underwriters is not part of this prospectus supplement or the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement forms a part, has not been approved and/or endorsed by us or the underwriters and should not be relied upon by investors.

Conflicts of Interest

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full-service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment

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management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. The underwriters and their respective affiliates have engaged in, and may in the future engage in, investment banking, commercial banking and other commercial dealings in the ordinary course of business with us and our affiliates, for which they have received and may continue to receive customary fees and commissions. Affiliates of certain of the underwriters are lenders under our unsecured revolving credit facility and under one or more of our unsecured term loans, and, to the extent we repay amounts under the credit facility or such term loans with proceeds from this offering, these affiliates may receive a portion of the proceeds from this offering.

In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. If the underwriters or their respective affiliates have a lending relationship with us, the underwriters or their respective affiliates may hedge their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, the underwriters and their respective affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities. The underwriters and their respective affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

Compliance with Non-U.S. Laws and Regulations

Other than in the United States, no action has been taken by us or the underwriters that would permit a public offering of the securities offered by this prospectus supplement in any jurisdiction where action for that purpose is required. The securities offered by this prospectus supplement may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, nor may this prospectus supplement or any other offering material or advertisements in connection with the offer and sale of any such securities be distributed or published in any jurisdiction, except under circumstances that will result in compliance with the applicable rules and regulations of that jurisdiction. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement comes are advised to inform themselves about and to observe any restrictions relating to the offering and the distribution of this prospectus supplement. This prospectus supplement does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities offered by this prospectus supplement in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or a solicitation is unlawful.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Australia

No placement document, prospectus, product disclosure statement or other disclosure document has been lodged with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), in relation to this offering. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute a prospectus, product disclosure statement or other disclosure document under the Corporations Act 2001 (the Corporations Act), and do not purport to include the information required for a prospectus, product disclosure statement or other disclosure document under the Corporations Act.

Any offer in Australia of the Class A common shares may only be made to persons (the Exempt Investors) who are sophisticated investors (within the meaning of section 708(8) of the Corporations Act), professional investors (within the meaning of section 708(11) of the Corporations Act) or otherwise pursuant to one or more exemptions contained in section 708 of the Corporations Act so that it is lawful to offer the Class A common shares without disclosure to investors under Chapter 6D of the Corporations Act.

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The Class A common shares applied for by Exempt Investors in Australia must not be offered for sale in Australia in the period of 12 months after the date of allotment under this offering, except in circumstances where disclosure to investors under Chapter 6D of the Corporations Act would not be required pursuant to an exemption under section 708 of the Corporations Act or otherwise or where the offer is pursuant to a disclosure

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document which complies with Chapter 6D of the Corporations Act. Any person acquiring securities must observe such Australian on-sale restrictions.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain general information only and do not take account of the investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any particular person. They do not contain any securities recommendations or financial product advice. Before making an investment decision, investors need to consider whether the information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is appropriate to their needs, objectives and circumstances, and, if necessary, seek expert advice on those matters.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Canada

The Class A common shares may be sold only to purchasers purchasing, or deemed to be purchasing, as principal that are accredited investors, as defined in National Instrument 45-106 Prospectus Exemptions or subsection 73.3(1) of the Securities Act (Ontario), and are permitted clients, as defined in National Instrument 31-103 Registration Requirements, Exemptions and Ongoing Registrant Obligations. Any resale of the Class A common shares must be made in accordance with an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the prospectus requirements of applicable securities laws.

Securities legislation in certain provinces or territories of Canada may provide a purchaser with remedies for rescission or damages if this prospectus (including any amendment thereto) contains a misrepresentation, provided that the remedies for rescission or damages are exercised by the purchaser within the time limit prescribed by the securities legislation of the purchaser's province or territory. The purchaser should refer to any applicable provisions of the securities legislation of the purchaser's province or territory for particulars of these rights or consult with a legal advisor.

Pursuant to section 3A.3 (or, in the case of securities issued or guaranteed by the government of a non-Canadian jurisdiction, section 3A.4) of National Instrument 33-105 Underwriting Conflicts (NI 33-105), the underwriters are not required to comply with the disclosure requirements of NI 33-105 regarding underwriter conflicts of interest in connection with this offering.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the Dubai International Financial Centre

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relate to an exempt offer in accordance with the Offered Securities Rules of the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA). This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are intended for distribution only to persons of a type specified in the Offered Securities Rules of the DFSA. They must not be delivered to, or relied on by, any other person. The DFSA has no responsibility for reviewing or verifying any documents in connection with exempt offers. The DFSA has not approved this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus nor taken steps to verify the information set forth herein or therein and has no responsibility for this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. The Class A common shares to which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relate may be illiquid and/or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers of the Class A common shares offered should conduct their own due diligence on the Class A common shares. If you do not understand the contents of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus you should consult an authorized financial advisor.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), with effect from and including the date on which the European Union Prospectus

Directive (the EU Prospectus Directive) was implemented in that Relevant Member State no

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offer of Class A common shares described in this prospectus may be made to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined under the EU Prospectus Directive;

to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the EU Prospectus Directive), per Relevant Member State, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the underwriter; or

in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the EU Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of Class A common shares shall result in a requirement for us or the underwriters to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the EU Prospectus Directive or a supplemental prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the EU Prospectus Directive and each person who initially acquires any Class A common shares or to whom any offer is made will be deemed to have represented, warranted and agreed to and with the underwriters and us that it is a qualified investor within the meaning of the law in that Relevant Member State implementing Article 2(1)(e) of the EU Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of Class A common shares to the public in relation to any Class A common shares in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Class A common shares to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the Class A common shares, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the EU Prospectus Directive in that Member State. The expression EU Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC, as amended, including by Directive 2010/73/EU, and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Hong Kong

The Class A common shares have not been offered or sold and will not be offered or sold in Hong Kong, by means of any document, other than (a) to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong and any rules made under that Ordinance; or (b) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32) of Hong Kong or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of that Ordinance. No advertisement, invitation or document relating to the Class A common shares has been or may be issued or has been or may be in the possession of any person for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to Class A common shares which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance and any rules made under that Ordinance.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Switzerland

We have not and will not register with the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) as a foreign collective investment scheme pursuant to Article 119 of the Federal Act on Collective Investment Scheme of 23 June 2006, as amended (CISA), and accordingly the Class A common shares being offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not and will not be approved, and may not be licenseable, with FINMA. Therefore, the Class A common shares have not been authorized for distribution by FINMA as a foreign

collective investment scheme pursuant to Article 119 CISA and the Class A common shares offered hereby may not be offered to the public (as this term is defined in Article 3 CISA) in or from Switzerland. The Class A common shares may solely be offered to qualified investors, as this term is defined in Article 10 CISA, and in the circumstances set out in Article 3 of the Ordinance on Collective Investment Scheme of 22 November 2006, as amended (CISO), such that there is no public offer. Investors, however, do not benefit from protection under CISA or CISO or supervision by FINMA. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any other materials relating to the Class A common shares are strictly personal and confidential to each offeree and do not constitute an offer to any other person. This

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prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may only be used by those qualified investors to whom it has been handed out in connection with the offer described herein and may neither directly or indirectly be distributed or made available to any person or entity other than its recipients. They may not be used in connection with any other offer and shall in particular not be copied and/or distributed to the public in Switzerland or from Switzerland. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute an issue prospectus as that term is understood pursuant to Article 652a and/or 1156 of the Swiss Federal Code of Obligations. We have not applied for a listing of the Class A common shares on the SIX Swiss Exchange or any other regulated securities market in Switzerland, and consequently, the information presented in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus does not necessarily comply with the information standards set out in the listing rules of the SIX Swiss Exchange and corresponding prospectus schemes annexed to the listing rules of the SIX Swiss Exchange.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the United Kingdom

No invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA)) received by the underwriters in connection with the issue or sale of the Class A common shares may be communicated or caused to be communicated except in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to us. All applicable provisions of the FSMA must be complied with in connection with anything done or to be done by the underwriters in relation to any Class A common shares in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the Netherlands

Our Class A common shares offered hereby may not, directly or indirectly, be offered or acquired in the Netherlands and this prospectus supplement may not be circulated in the Netherlands, as part of an initial distribution or any time thereafter, other than to individuals or (legal) entities who or which qualify as qualified investors within the meaning of Article 1:1 of the Financial Supervision Act (Wet op het financieel toezicht) as amended from time to time.

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LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the Class A common shares offered by means of this prospectus supplement and certain federal income tax matters have been passed upon for us by Hogan Lovells US LLP. Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for the underwriters by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Los Angeles, California.

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INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference certain information that we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus supplement. Any statement contained in a document that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement is automatically updated and superseded if information contained in this prospectus supplement modifies or replaces this information. In this prospectus supplement, we are incorporating by reference the following documents that we filed with the SEC:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2017 and June 30, 2017;

the portions of our Definitive Proxy Statement for our 2017 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, filed with the SEC on February 24, 2017, incorporated by reference in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K and any amendments thereto, filed with the SEC on May 11, 2016, March 24, 2017, April 21, 2017, May 4, 2017 (solely with respect to Item 5.07), July 6, 2017 (solely with respect to Items 1.01 and 2.03), July 12, 2017 and August 10, 2017; and

the descriptions of our securities included in our Registration Statements on Form 8-A, filed with the SEC on July 19, 2013, October 18, 2013, December 23, 2013, May 1, 2014, May 17, 2016, June 23, 2016, April 21, 2017 and July 12, 2017, including any amendment or reports filed for the purpose of updating such descriptions.

We also incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement additional documents that we may file with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from the date of this prospectus supplement until we have sold all of the securities to which this prospectus supplement relates or the offering is otherwise terminated; provided, however that we are not incorporating any information furnished under either Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K, unless otherwise indicated therein.

We will provide free of charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, on written or oral request of that person, a copy of any or all of the documents we are incorporating by reference into this prospectus, other than exhibits to those documents unless those exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into those documents. You may request a copy of these filings by contacting Investor Relations, 30601 Agoura Road, Suite 200, Agoura Hills, California 91301, by telephone at (855)-794-AH4R (2447), by e-mail at info@ah4r.com, or by visiting our website, <https://americanhomes4rent.com>.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON OUR WEBSITE IS NOT A PART OF THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT.

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PROSPECTUS

**Common Shares, Preferred Shares, Depositary Shares,
Warrants and Rights**

We may offer, from time to time, one or more series or classes of:

Common shares of beneficial interest;

Preferred shares of beneficial interest;

Depositary shares representing our preferred shares;

Warrants exercisable for our common shares of beneficial interest, preferred shares of beneficial interest or depositary shares representing preferred shares of beneficial interest; and

Rights to purchase common shares of beneficial interest.

We refer to our common shares of beneficial interest, preferred shares of beneficial interest, depositary shares, warrants and rights, collectively as the securities. This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities and the general manner in which they may be offered. The prices and terms of any securities to be offered, the net proceeds that we expect to receive from the sale of such securities and the specific manner in which such securities may be offered will be set forth in one or more supplements to this prospectus.

We will deliver this prospectus together with a prospectus supplement setting forth the specific terms of the securities we are offering. The applicable prospectus supplement also will contain information, where applicable, about U.S. federal income tax considerations relating to, and any listing on a securities exchange of, the particular securities covered by the prospectus supplement.

We may offer the securities directly to investors, through agents designated from time to time by them or us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. If any agents, underwriters, or dealers are involved in the sale of any of the securities, their names, and any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement with, between or among them, will be set forth, or will be calculable from the information set forth, in an accompanying prospectus supplement. For more detailed information, see Plan of Distribution beginning on page 52. No securities may be sold without delivery of a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of those securities.

Our common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, under the symbol AMH. On August 3, 2017, the last reported sale price of our common shares on the NYSE was \$22.68 per share. Our principal executive offices are located at 30601 Agoura Road, Suite 200, Agoura Hills, California 91301, and our telephone number is (805) 413-5300.

You should carefully read this entire prospectus, the documents that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement before you invest in any of these securities.

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the risks described under Risk Factors on page 5 of this prospectus, as well as the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, before making a decision to invest in our securities.

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.

This prospectus is dated August 4, 2017

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer at any time, from time to time, in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides only a general description of the securities we may offer and is not meant to provide a complete description of each security. As a result, each time we offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the terms of those securities, which we will attach to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus.

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement. To the extent there are any inconsistencies between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the applicable prospectus supplement. You should rely only on the information provided or information to which we have referred you, including any information incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale of these securities is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus, any free writing prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement prepared by us or the other documents incorporated by reference herein or therein is accurate only as of their respective dates or on the date or dates that are specified in these documents. Our business, financial condition, liquidity, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

You should read carefully the entire prospectus, as well as the documents incorporated by reference in the prospectus, which we have referred you to in **Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference** below, before making an investment decision. Information incorporated by reference after the date of this prospectus may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Statements contained or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement as to the content of any contract or other document are not necessarily complete, and in each instance we refer you to the copy of the contract or other document filed as an exhibit to a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus or such prospectus supplement, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference. Any information in such subsequent filings that is inconsistent with this prospectus will supersede the information in this prospectus or any earlier prospectus supplement.

Unless the context requires otherwise, we define certain terms in this prospectus as follows:

We, our company, the Company, the REIT, our and us refer to American Homes 4 Rent, a Maryland estate investment trust, and its subsidiaries taken as a whole (including our operating partnership and its subsidiaries).

Our operating partnership refers to American Homes 4 Rent, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership, and its subsidiaries taken as a whole.

You refers to a prospective investor.

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CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Various statements contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus, including those that express a belief, expectation or intention, as well as those that are not statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements may include projections and estimates concerning the timing and success of specific projects, revenues, income and capital spending. Our forward-looking statements are generally accompanied by words such as estimate, project, predict, believe, expect, intend, anticipate, potential, other words that convey the uncertainty of future events or outcomes. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and assumptions about future events. While our management considers these expectations and assumptions to be reasonable, they are inherently subject to significant business, economic, competitive, regulatory and other risks, contingencies, trends and uncertainties, most of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond our control. These and other important factors, including those discussed under Risk Factors, in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 (which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement) and elsewhere in this prospectus, and in other documents that we may file from time to time with the SEC, may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. These risks, contingencies and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the following:

We are employing a business model with a limited track record, which may make our business difficult to evaluate.

We have a limited operating history, and we may not be able to successfully operate our business or generate sufficient cash flows to make or sustain distributions on our preferred and common shares.

We may not be able to effectively manage our growth, and any failure to do so may have an adverse effect on our business and operating results.

We intend to continue to expand our scale of operations and make acquisitions even if the rental and housing markets are not as favorable as they were when we commenced operations, which could adversely impact anticipated yields.

Our future growth depends, in part, on the availability of additional debt or equity financing. If we cannot obtain additional financing on terms favorable or acceptable to us, our growth or operating results may be adversely affected.

Our revolving credit facility (the revolving credit facility) and our term loan facility (the term loan facility, and together with the revolving credit facility, the Facilities), securitizations and secured note payable contain financial and operating covenants that could restrict our business and investment activities. Failure to satisfy these covenants could result in a default under our Facilities that could accelerate the maturity of our debt obligations or, with respect to our securitizations and secured note payable, also require that all cash flow generated from operations service only the indebtedness and the possible foreclosure of the properties

securing the indebtedness, which would have a material adverse effect on our business, liquidity, results of operations and financial condition and our ability to make distributions on our preferred and common shares.

We are dependent on our executive officers and dedicated personnel, and the departure of any of our key personnel could materially and adversely affect us. We also face intense competition for highly skilled managerial, investment, financial and operational personnel.

Our investments are and are expected to continue to be concentrated in our markets and the single-family properties sector of the real estate industry, which exposes us to seasonal fluctuations in rental demand and downturns in our markets or in the single-family properties sector.

We may not be able to effectively control the timing and costs relating to the renovation of properties, which may adversely affect our operating results and our ability to make distributions on our preferred and common shares.

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We face significant competition for acquisitions of our target properties, which may limit our strategic opportunities and increase the cost to acquire those properties.

We face significant competition in the leasing market for quality tenants, which may limit our ability to rent our single-family homes on favorable terms or at all.

Our evaluation of properties involves a number of assumptions that may prove inaccurate, which could result in us paying too much for properties we acquire or overvaluing our properties or our properties failing to perform as we expect.

Single-family properties that are being sold through short sales or foreclosure sales are subject to risks of theft, mold, infestation, vandalism, illegal activity on the premises, deterioration or other damage that could require extensive renovation prior to renting and adversely impact our operating results.

If occupancy levels and rental rates in our target markets do not increase sufficiently to keep pace with rising costs of operations, our income and distributable cash will decline.

We depend on our tenants and their willingness to renew their leases for substantially all of our revenues. Poor tenant selection and defaults and non-renewals by our tenants may adversely affect our reputation, financial performance and ability to make distributions on our preferred and common shares.

Declining real estate values and impairment charges could adversely affect our financial condition and operating results.

Our development activities expose us to additional risks, which may adversely affect our financial condition and operating results.

We are self-insured against many potential losses, and uninsured or underinsured losses relating to properties may adversely affect our financial condition, operating results, cash flows and ability to make distributions on our preferred and common shares.

Mortgage loan modification programs and future legislative action may adversely affect the number of available properties that meet our investment criteria.

Our board of trustees has approved a very broad investment policy, subject to management oversight.

We may be adversely affected by lawsuits alleging trademark infringement as such lawsuits could materially harm our brand name, reputation and results of operations.

Our fiduciary duties as the general partner of our operating partnership could create conflicts of interest, which may impede business decisions that could benefit our shareholders.

The market price and trading volume of our Class A common shares may fluctuate substantially and be volatile due to numerous factors beyond our control.

The availability and timing of cash distributions is uncertain.

Our ability to pay dividends is limited by the requirements of Maryland law.

Failure to qualify as a real estate investment trust (REIT), or failure to remain qualified as a REIT, would cause us to be taxed as a regular corporation, which would substantially reduce funds available for distribution to our shareholders.

While forward-looking statements reflect our good faith beliefs, assumptions and expectations, they are not guarantees of future performance, and you should not unduly rely on them. The forward-looking statements in this prospectus speak only as of the date of this prospectus. We are not obligated to update or revise these statements as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless required by applicable law.

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OUR COMPANY

American Homes 4 Rent is an internally managed Maryland REIT focused on acquiring, renovating, leasing and operating single-family homes as rental properties. We commenced operations in November 2012 to take advantage of the dislocation in the single-family home market. We have an integrated operating platform that consists of approximately 1,039 personnel as of June 30, 2017, dedicated to acquisition, property management, marketing, leasing, financial and administrative functions.

As of June 30, 2017, we owned 48,982 single-family properties in 22 states, including 704 properties held for sale. As of June 30, 2017, 46,089, or 95.2% of our total properties (excluding held for sale properties) were leased.

We believe we have become a leader in the single-family home rental industry by aggregating a geographically diversified portfolio of high-quality single-family homes and developing American Homes 4 Rent into a nationally recognized brand that is well-known for quality, value and tenant satisfaction and is well respected in our communities. Our investments may be made directly or through investment vehicles with third-party investors. In addition to individual property purchases, we may pursue bulk acquisitions from financial institutions, government agencies and competitors. We may also build some of our properties to our rental specifications. Our objective is to generate attractive, risk-adjusted returns for our shareholders through dividends and capital appreciation.

We believe that we have been organized and operate in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under U.S. federal income tax laws for each of our taxable years commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2012, through the taxable year ended December 31, 2016. We expect to satisfy the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the U.S. federal income tax laws for our taxable year ending December 31, 2017, and subsequent taxable years.

Our principal executive office is located at 30601 Agoura Road, Suite 200, Agoura Hills, California 91301. Our main telephone number is (805) 413-5300. Our website address is *www.americanhomes4rent.com*. The information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference in or otherwise a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

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RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risk factors set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 and our Quarterly Reports for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2017 and June 30, 2017, together with all the other information contained or incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and the risks we have highlighted in other sections of this prospectus, before making an investment decision to purchase our securities. The occurrence of any of the events described could materially and adversely affect our business, prospects, financial condition, results of operations and our ability to make cash distributions to our shareholders, which could cause you to lose all or a significant part of your investment in our securities. Some statements in this prospectus constitute forward-looking statements. Please refer to the section entitled Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement to this prospectus used to offer specific securities, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of securities under this prospectus for general corporate purposes, including, without limitation, acquisitions of additional properties, the repayment of outstanding indebtedness, capital expenditures, the expansion, redevelopment and/or improvement of properties in our portfolio, working capital and other general purposes, including repurchases of the Company's securities.

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DESCRIPTION OF EQUITY SHARES

The following is a summary of the material terms of our equity shares and certain terms of our declaration of trust and bylaws.

General

We are authorized to issue 500,000,000 common shares, consisting of 450,000,000 Class A common shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value per share (Class A common shares), and 50,000,000 Class B common shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value per share (Class B common shares, and together with the Class A common shares, the common shares), and 100,000,000 preferred shares of beneficial interest, \$0.01 par value per share (Preferred Shares). Except as provided below, the Class A common shares and Class B common shares have the same rights and privileges, rank equally and are otherwise identical in all respects. Our declaration of trust authorizes our board of trustees, with the approval of a majority of the entire board and without any action on the part of our shareholders, to amend our declaration of trust to increase or decrease the aggregate number of authorized shares or the number of authorized shares of any class or series without shareholder approval. Maryland law provides, and our declaration of trust provides, that none of our shareholders are personally liable for any of our obligations solely as a result of that shareholder's status as a shareholder.

As of August 3, 2017, 259,691,986 Class A common shares, 635,075 Class B common shares, 5,060,000 Preferred Shares designated as Series A Participating Preferred Shares, 4,400,000 Preferred Shares designated as Series B Participating Preferred Shares, 7,600,000 Preferred Shares designated as Series C Participating Preferred Shares, 10,750,000 Preferred Shares designated as Series D Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, 9,200,000 Preferred Shares designated as Series E Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Shares, 6,200,000 Preferred Shares designated as Series F Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, and 4,600,000 Preferred Shares designated as Series G Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares are outstanding. The actual number of holders of our Class A common shares and our Preferred Shares is greater than the record number of holders and includes shareholders who are beneficial owners but whose shares are held in street name by brokers and other nominees.

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DESCRIPTION OF COMMON SHARES

Subject to the preferential rights, if any, of holders of any other class or series of shares and to the provisions of our declaration of trust regarding restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares, holders of our common shares:

have the right to receive ratably any distributions from funds legally available therefor, when, as and if authorized by our board of trustees and declared by us; and

are entitled to share ratably in the assets of our company legally available for distribution to the holders of our common shares in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs.

There are generally no redemption, sinking fund, conversion, preemptive or appraisal rights with respect to our common shares.

Under Title 8, a Maryland REIT generally cannot amend its declaration of trust or merge with another entity unless declared advisable by a majority of the board of trustees and approved by the affirmative vote of shareholders entitled to cast at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter unless a lesser percentage, but not less than a majority of all of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter, is set forth in the REIT's declaration of trust. Our declaration of trust provides that such actions (other than certain amendments to the provisions of our declaration of trust related to the removal of trustees, the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares and termination of the trust) may be taken if declared advisable by a majority of our board of trustees and approved by the vote of shareholders holding a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter.

Subject to the provisions of our declaration of trust regarding the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares and except as may otherwise be specified in our declaration of trust, each outstanding Class A common share entitles the holder to one vote, and each outstanding Class B common share entitles the holder to 50 votes, on all matters on which the shareholders of Class A common shares are entitled to vote, including the election of trustees, and, except as provided with respect to any other class or series of shares, the holders of Class A common shares and Class B common shares will vote together as a single class and will possess the exclusive voting power. Notwithstanding the foregoing, holders of Class B common shares are not entitled to vote on any matter requiring Partnership Approval.

Partnership Approval is defined in the agreement of limited partnership of our operating partnership, as amended, as approval obtained when the sum of the (1) the percentage interest of partners consenting to the transaction, plus (2) the product of (a) the percentage of the outstanding Class A units held by the general partner entity multiplied by (b) the percentage of the votes that were cast in favor of the transaction by the holders of the common shares of beneficial interest (or other comparable equity interest) of the general partner entity equals or exceeds the percentage required for the general partner entity's shareholders to approve the transaction. In addition, in no event may holders of shares beneficially owned by Mr. Hughes or HF Investments 2010, LLC (HF Investments), as determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, vote more than 30% of the total votes entitled to be cast on any particular matter nor more than 18% of the total votes of the Class A common shares. There is no cumulative voting in the election of our trustees, which means that the shareholders entitled to cast a majority of the votes of the outstanding common shares can elect all of the trustees then standing for election, and the holders of the remaining shares will not be able to elect any trustees. Each Trustee shall be elected by the vote of a majority of the votes cast with respect to the Trustee at any meeting for the election of Trustees at which a quorum is present, provided that if the number of persons lawfully nominated exceeds the number of Trustees to be elected, the Trustees shall be elected by the vote of a plurality of the votes cast at the meeting at which a quorum is present. Under a plurality voting standard, trustees who receive the greatest number of votes cast in

their favor are elected to the board of trustees. A majority of the votes cast at a meeting of shareholders duly called and at which a quorum is present shall be sufficient to approve any other matter which may properly come before the meeting, unless a higher vote is required herein or by statute or by our declaration of trust.

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Power to Reclassify and Issue Shares

Our board of trustees may classify any unissued preferred shares, and reclassify any unissued common shares or any previously classified but unissued preferred shares into other classes or series of shares, including one or more classes or series of shares that have priority over our common shares with respect to voting rights or distributions or upon liquidation, and authorize us to issue the newly classified shares. Prior to the issuance of shares of each class or series, our board of trustees is required by Title 8 and our declaration of trust to set, subject to the provisions of our declaration of trust regarding the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares, the preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms and conditions of redemption for each such class or series. These actions can be taken without shareholder approval, unless shareholder approval is required by applicable law, the terms of any other class or series of our shares or the rules of any stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our shares may be then listed or quoted.

Conversion of Class B Common Shares

The holder of our Class B common shares also owns the units of limited partnership, or OP units, in our operating partnership. In the event a holder of Class B common shares transfers its OP units to a transferee, other than a qualified transferee, which includes family members and affiliates of or other entities controlled by such holder, then one Class B common share held by such holder automatically converts into one Class A common share for every 49 OP units transferred by the holder. If the holder of Class B common shares transfers any OP units to a qualified trustee, and then such qualified trustee in turn transfers the same OP units to another qualified trustee of the original transferor, then one Class B common share held by the first qualified transferee will automatically convert into one Class A common share for every 49 OP units transferred by the first qualified transferee. In such case, if the first qualified transferee does not own a sufficient number of Class B common shares, then the initial transferor will be responsible for the deficiency in Class B common shares, and a number of Class A common shares equal to such deficiency held by the initial transferor (or, if the initial transferor does not now own sufficient Class B common shares, then one or more other qualified transferees of such initial transferor) will automatically convert into one Class A common share for every 49 OP units. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any Class B common shares transferred to a transferee other than a qualified transferee will automatically convert into an equal number of Class A common shares.

Power to Increase or Decrease Authorized Shares and Issue Additional Shares of Our Common and Preferred Shares

Our declaration of trust authorizes our board of trustees, with the approval of a majority of the entire board, to amend our declaration of trust to increase or decrease the aggregate number of authorized shares or the number of authorized shares of any class or series without shareholder approval. We believe that the power of our board of trustees to increase or decrease the number of authorized shares and to classify or reclassify unissued common shares or preferred shares and thereafter to cause us to issue such shares will provide us with increased flexibility in structuring possible future financings and acquisitions and in meeting other needs which might arise. The additional classes or series, as well as the additional shares, will be available for issuance without further action by our shareholders, unless such action is required by applicable law, the terms of any other class or series of shares or the rules of any stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or traded. Although our board of trustees does not intend to do so, it could authorize us to issue a class or series that could, depending upon the terms of the particular class or series, delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control of our company that might involve a premium price for our shareholders or otherwise be in their best interests.

Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer

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Due to limitations on the concentration of ownership of REIT shares imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, subject to certain exceptions, our declaration of trust provides that no person

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may beneficially own more than 8.0% (in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive) of our outstanding common shares. In addition, our declaration of trust prohibits any person from, among other matters, beneficially owning equity shares if such ownership would result in our being closely held within the meaning of Section 856(h) of the Code (without regard to whether the ownership interest is held during the last half of a year); transferring equity shares if such transfer would result in our equity shares being owned by less than 100 persons; and beneficially owning equity shares if such beneficial ownership would otherwise cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT under the Code. Our board of trustees may exempt a person from the ownership limits if such person submits to the board of trustees certain information satisfactory to the board of trustees. See Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

We have retained American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC as the transfer agent and registrar for our common shares.

Registration Rights

In connection with our operating partnership's acquisition of our former manager and our former property manager from AH LLC on June 10, 2013, at which time all administrative, financial, property management and marketing and leasing personnel, including executive management, became our fully dedicated personnel, we entered into a registration rights agreement with AH LLC providing for registration rights. Effective August 31, 2016, AH LLC was liquidated and its ownership interests in the operating partnership were distributed to its members, which include members of our executive team, board of trustees and HF Investments. In connection with liquidation, the registration rights granted under the registration rights agreement with AH LLC were assumed by former members of AH LLC (the registration rights holders). If we are eligible to file a shelf registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, the registration rights holders will have the right to request that we file and maintain a shelf registration statement to register for resale the Class A common shares and securities convertible into Class A common shares that are held by the registration rights holders. In addition, the registration rights holders have the right to request that we cooperate with the registration rights holders in up to three underwritten offerings of our Class A common shares under the shelf registration statement, provided such right may not be invoked more often than once every six months (subject to suspension rights in favor of our company) and each such underwritten offering generally must yield gross proceeds to the registration rights holders of not less than \$100 million per offering. The registration rights holders have unlimited piggyback registration rights to include the Class A common shares and securities convertible into Class A common shares that the registration rights holders own in other registration statements that we may initiate, subject to certain conditions and limitations (including cut-back rights in favor of our company). The registration rights agreement provides for the registration of any Class A common shares beneficially owned by the registration rights holders at any time during the term of the agreement. Under the registration rights agreement, we pay all expenses relating to registrations, and the registration rights holders pay all underwriting discounts and commissions relating to the sale of their Class A common shares. The registration rights agreement contains other customary terms, including for indemnification. The registration rights agreement will terminate when the registration rights holders may freely sell their Class A common shares pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act.

The preceding summary of certain provisions relating to registration rights is not intended to be complete, and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the applicable agreement.

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DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED SHARES

The following description sets forth certain general terms of the preferred shares to which any prospectus supplement may relate and the material terms of our outstanding series of preferred shares. This description and the description contained in any prospectus supplement are not complete and are in all respects subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to our declaration of trust, the applicable articles supplementary that describes the terms of the related class or series of preferred shares, and our bylaws, each of which we will make available upon request.

As of August 3, 2017, 5,060,000 Preferred Shares designated as Series A Participating Preferred Shares, 4,400,000 Preferred Shares designated as Series B Participating Preferred Shares, 7,600,000 Preferred Shares designated as Series C Participating Preferred Shares, 10,750,000 Preferred Shares designated as Series D Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, 9,200,000 Preferred Shares designated as Series E Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, 6,200,000 Preferred Shares designated as Series F Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares and 4,600,000 Preferred Shares designated as Series G Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares are outstanding.

General

Subject to the limitations prescribed by Maryland law and our declaration of trust and bylaws, our board of trustees is authorized to establish the number of shares constituting each series of preferred shares and to fix the designations and powers, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights and qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, including such provisions as may be desired concerning voting, redemption, dividends, dissolution or the distribution of assets, conversion or exchange, and such other subjects or matters as may be fixed by resolution of the board of trustees or duly authorized committee thereof. The preferred shares will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable and will not have, or be subject to, any preemptive or similar rights.

The prospectus supplement relating to the series of preferred shares offered thereby will describe the specific terms of such securities, including:

the title and stated value of such preferred shares;

the number of such preferred shares offered, the liquidation preference per share and the offering price of such preferred shares;

the dividend rate(s), period(s) and/or payment date(s) or method(s) of calculation thereof applicable to such preferred shares;

whether dividends shall be cumulative or non-cumulative and, if cumulative, the date from which dividends on such preferred shares shall accumulate;

the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any, for such preferred shares;

the provisions for a sinking fund, if any, for such preferred shares;

the provisions for redemption, if applicable, of such preferred shares;

any listing of such preferred shares on any securities exchange;

the terms and conditions, if applicable, upon which such preferred shares will be convertible into our common shares, including the conversion price (or manner of calculation thereof) and conversion period;

a discussion of federal income tax considerations applicable to such preferred shares;

any limitations on issuance of any series of preferred shares ranking senior to or on a parity with such series of preferred shares as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs;

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in addition to those limitations described below, any other limitations on actual and constructive ownership and restrictions on transfer, in each case as may be appropriate to preserve our status as a REIT; and

any other specific terms, preferences, rights, limitations or restrictions of such preferred shares.

Restrictions on Ownership

Due to limitations on the concentration of ownership of REIT shares imposed by the Code, subject to certain exceptions, our declaration of trust provides that no person may beneficially own more than 9.9% (in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive) of any class or series of our outstanding preferred shares. In addition, our declaration of trust prohibits any person from, among other matters, beneficially owning equity shares if such ownership would result in our being closely held within the meaning of Section 856(h) of the Code (without regard to whether the ownership interest is held during the last half of a year); transferring equity shares if such transfer would result in our equity shares being owned by less than 100 persons; and beneficially owning equity shares if such beneficial ownership would otherwise cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT under the Code. Our board of trustees may exempt a person from the ownership limits if such person submits to the board of trustees certain information satisfactory to the board of trustees. See Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our preferred shares will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and Our Charter and Bylaws

See Material Provisions of Maryland Law and of Our Declaration of Trust and Bylaws.

Description of Series A Participating Preferred Shares

General

The following description of certain terms and conditions of our 5.000% Series A Participating Preferred Shares does not purport to be complete and is in all respects subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to our declaration of trust, including the Articles Supplementary setting forth the terms of our Series A Participating Preferred Shares, our bylaws and Maryland law. Our declaration of trust, including the Articles Supplementary for our Series A Participating Preferred Shares, and our bylaws are incorporated by reference into this prospectus from our SEC filings. Capitalized terms used in the following description shall have the meanings set forth in the Articles Supplementary for the Series A Participating Preferred Shares.

Maturity and Preemptive Rights

The Series A Participating Preferred Shares have no stated maturity and are not subject to any sinking fund or mandatory redemption (except as described below under Redemption Redemption upon an Absence of Suitable Indices Event and Conversion Rights Conversion upon an Absence of Suitable Indices Event), and will remain outstanding indefinitely unless (i) we redeem such Series A Participating Preferred Shares at our option as described below in Redemption, (ii) we convert such Series A Participating Preferred Shares at our option as described below in Conversion Rights Conversion at Our Option or (iii) subject to our special right of redemption in the event of a Change of Control (as defined below), they are converted by the holder of such Series A Participating Preferred Shares in the event of a Change of Control as described below in Conversion Rights Conversion upon a Change of Control.

There are generally no preemptive rights with respect to our Series A Participating Preferred Shares.

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Ranking

The Series A Participating Preferred Shares rank, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up:

- (1) senior to our common shares and to any other class or series of our equity shares expressly designated as ranking junior to the Series A Participating Preferred Shares;
- (2) on parity with any other preferred or convertible preferred securities, including the Series B and Series C Participating Preferred Shares; and
- (3) junior to all equity shares issued by us with terms specifically providing that those equity shares rank senior to the Series A Participating Preferred Shares with respect to rights of dividend payments and the distribution of assets upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company, or Liquidation Event, which issuance is subject to the approval of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding Series A Participating Preferred Shares and any parity preference shares.

The term *equity shares* does not include convertible debt securities, which debt securities would rank senior to the Series A Participating Preferred Shares.

Dividends

Holders of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares are entitled to receive cumulative cash dividends payable quarterly in arrears on the last day of March, June, September and December of each year, at the rate of 5.000% per annum on the initial liquidation preference per share (equivalent to the fixed annual rate of \$1.25 per share). If any dividend payment date falls on any day other than a business day as defined in the Articles Supplementary for our Series A Participating Preferred Shares, the dividend due on such dividend payment date is paid on the first business day immediately following such dividend payment date, and no dividends will accrue as a result of such delay. Dividends accrue and are cumulative from, and including, the prior dividend payment date (or, if no prior dividend payment date, the original issue date of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares) to, but excluding, the next dividend payment date, to holders of record as of 5:00 p.m., New York time, on the related record date. The record dates for the Series A Participating Preferred Shares are the March 15, June 15, September 15 or December 15 immediately preceding the relevant dividend payment date, regardless of whether that day is a business day. Prior to September 30, 2020, no dividends will accrue or be paid on any HPA Amount (as defined below).

On and after September 30, 2020, in lieu of the dividend rate detailed in the preceding paragraph, a dividend rate of 10.000% per annum will accrue and be paid on the initial liquidation preference per Series A Participating Preferred Share plus the HPA Amount, if any.

Our board of trustees will not authorize and we will not pay or set apart for payment dividends on our Series A Participating Preferred Shares at any time when the terms and provisions of any agreement of ours, including any agreement relating to our indebtedness, prohibits the authorization, payment or setting apart for payment or provides that the authorization, payment or setting apart for payment would constitute a breach of the agreement or a default under the agreement, or if the authorization, payment or setting apart for payment shall be restricted or prohibited by law. We also have the right to withhold, from any amounts otherwise payable to you, with respect to all distributions

(deemed or actual) to the extent that withholding is or was required for such distributions under applicable tax withholding rules. You should review the information appearing in the last paragraph under the caption Dividends for information regarding the circumstances under which the terms of our Facilities may limit or prohibit the payment of dividends on the Series A Participating Preferred Shares.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, dividends on the Series A Participating Preferred Shares accrue whether or not there are funds legally available for the payment of those dividends, whether or not we have earnings and whether or not those dividends are authorized. No interest, or sum in lieu of interest, is payable in respect of any

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dividend payment or payments on the Series A Participating Preferred Shares that may be in arrears, and holders of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares are not entitled to any dividends in excess of full cumulative dividends described above. Any dividend payment made on the Series A Participating Preferred Shares, including any Capital Gains Amounts, as described in the paragraph below, is first credited against the earliest accrued but unpaid dividend due with respect to those shares.

If, for any taxable year, we designate as a capital gain dividend, as defined in Section 857 of the Code, any portion of the dividends, or the Capital Gains Amount, as determined for federal income tax purposes, paid or made available for that year to holders of all classes of our shares of beneficial interest, then, except as otherwise required by applicable law, the portion of the Capital Gains Amount that shall be allocable to the holders of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares will be in proportion to the amount that the total dividends, as determined for federal income tax purposes, paid or made available to holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares for the year bears to the total dividends paid or made available for that year to holders of all classes of our shares of beneficial interest. In addition, except as otherwise required by applicable law, we will make a similar allocation with respect to any undistributed long-term capital gains that are to be included in our shareholders' long-term capital gains, based on the allocation of the Capital Gains Amount that would have resulted if those undistributed long-term capital gains had been distributed as capital gain dividends by us to our shareholders.

Future distributions on our common shares and preferred shares will be at the discretion of our board of trustees and will depend on, among other things, our results of operations, funds from operations, cash flow from operations, financial condition and capital requirements, the annual distribution requirements under the REIT provisions of the Code, our debt service requirements and any other factors our board of trustees deems relevant. In addition, our Facilities contain provisions that could limit or, in certain cases, prohibit the payment of distributions on our common shares and preferred shares. Accordingly, although we expect to pay quarterly cash distributions on our common shares and scheduled cash dividends on our preferred shares, we cannot guarantee that we will maintain these distributions or what the actual distributions will be for any future period.

Voting Rights

Holders of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares generally have no voting rights. However, in the event we are in arrears on dividends, whether or not authorized or declared, on the Series A Participating Preferred Shares for six or more quarterly periods, whether or not consecutive, holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares (voting separately as a class together with the holders of all other classes or series of parity preferred shares and upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable) will be entitled to elect two additional trustees at a special meeting called upon the request of at least 10% of such holders or at our next annual meeting and each subsequent annual meeting of shareholders, each additional trustee being referred to as a Preferred Share Trustee, until all unpaid dividends with respect to the Series A Participating Preferred Shares and such other classes or series of preferred shares with like voting rights, have been paid or declared and set aside for payment. Preferred Share Trustees will be elected by a vote of holders of record of a majority of the outstanding Series A Participating Preferred Shares and any other series of parity equity shares with like voting rights, voting together as a class. Special meetings called in accordance with the provisions described in this paragraph shall be subject to the procedures in our bylaws, except that we, rather than the holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares, or any other class or series of parity preferred shares entitled to vote thereon when they have the voting rights described above (voting together as a single class), will pay all costs and expenses of calling and holding the meeting.

Any Preferred Share Trustee may be removed at any time with or without cause by the vote of, and may not be removed otherwise than by the vote of, the holders of record of a majority of the outstanding Series A Participating Preferred Shares and all other classes or series of parity preferred shares entitled to vote thereon when they have the

voting rights described above (voting together as a single class). So long as a dividend arrearage continues, any vacancy in the office of a Preferred Share Trustee may be filled by written consent of

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the Preferred Share Trustee remaining in office, or if none remains in office, by a vote of the holders of record of a majority of the outstanding Series A Participating Preferred Shares when they have the voting rights described above (voting as a single class with all other classes or series of parity preferred shares upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable).

So long as any Series A Participating Preferred Shares remain outstanding, we will not, without the affirmative vote or written consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the then-outstanding Series A Participating Preferred Shares and each other class or series of parity preferred shares with like voting rights (voting together as a single class), authorize, create, or increase the number of authorized or issued shares of, any class or series of equity shares ranking senior to the Series A Participating Preferred Shares with respect to rights of dividend payments and the distribution of assets upon a Liquidation Event, or reclassify any of our authorized capital stock into such capital stock, or create, authorize or issue any obligation or security convertible into or evidencing the right to purchase such capital stock.

In addition, the affirmative vote or written consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the outstanding Series A Participating Preferred Shares and each other class or series of parity preferred shares with like voting rights (voting together as a single class), is required for us to amend, alter or repeal any provision of our declaration of trust so as to materially and adversely affect the terms of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares. If such amendment to our declaration of trust does not equally affect the terms of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares and the terms of one or more other classes or series of parity preferred shares, the affirmative vote or written consent of the holders of at least two-thirds of the shares outstanding at the time of Series A Participating Preferred Shares, voting separately as a class, is required. Holders of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares also have the exclusive right to vote on any amendment to our declaration of trust on which holders of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares are otherwise entitled to vote and that would alter only the rights, as expressly set forth in our declaration of trust, of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares.

In any matter in which holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares may vote (as expressly provided in the articles supplementary setting forth the terms of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares), each Series A Participating Preferred Share is entitled to one vote per share.

Liquidation Preference

If we experience a Liquidation Event, holders of our Series A Participating Preferred Shares will have the right to receive the sum of (i) the initial liquidation preference, (ii) the HPA Amount (if the HPA Amount for the relevant period is a positive number) and (iii) an amount per Series A Participating Preferred Share equal to all dividends (whether or not authorized or declared) accrued and unpaid thereon to, but excluding, the date of final distribution to such holders, or the Final Liquidation Preference, before any distribution or payment is made to holders of our securities and any other class or series of our equity shares ranking junior to the Series A Participating Preferred Shares as to liquidation, dissolution or winding up. The rights of holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares to receive this amount will be subject to the proportionate rights of any other class or series of our equity shares ranking on parity with the Series A Participating Preferred Shares as to rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, and junior to the rights of any class or series of our equity shares expressly designated as ranking senior to the Series A Participating Preferred Shares.

Holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares are entitled to written notice of any distribution in connection with any Liquidation Event not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days prior to the distribution payment date. After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distributions to which they are entitled, holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares will have no right or claim to any of our remaining assets. Our consolidation or merger with or into any other corporation, trust or other entity, or the voluntary sale, transfer or conveyance of all or substantially all of

our property or business, will not be deemed to constitute a Liquidation Event.

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In determining whether a distribution (other than upon voluntary or involuntary liquidation), by dividend, redemption or other acquisition of any of our shares of beneficial interest or otherwise, is permitted under Maryland law, amounts that would be needed, if we were to be dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares will not be added to our total liabilities.

Home Price Appreciation Amount

The initial liquidation preference for the Series A Participating Preferred Shares may be increased by the HPA Amount. The HPA Amount for any period will equal the product of the initial liquidation preference and the HPA Factor for such period. However, the HPA Amount for all periods after September 30, 2020 will be equal to the HPA Amount calculated with respect to the period ended June 30, 2020, and the HPA Amount will be subject to a cap as described below under the caption HPA Amount Cap.

The HPA Amount may be realized upon (i) exercise by us of our optional redemption right or conversion right after September 30, 2017, (ii) any conversion or redemption in connection with a Change of Control (as defined below) or (iii) liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company. In addition, on and after September 30, 2020, dividends will accrue on the HPA Amount, if any, added to the initial liquidation preference per Series A Participating Preferred Share.

Home Price Appreciation Factor

HPA represents the cumulative change in value from June 30, 2013 of an index tracking the purchase prices of single-family homes located in our top 20 markets, by estimated total investment, as of July 31, 2013. HPA is determined using the Quarterly POI, specifically the non-seasonally adjusted Purchase-Only Index for the 100 Largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas, currently disclosed at the following URL:

<https://www.fhfa.gov/DataTools/Downloads/Pages/House-Price-Index-Datasets.aspx#qpo>. The contents of the FHFA website are not incorporated by reference in or otherwise part of this prospectus. Other indices referenced in this prospectus will not be used in calculating the HPA Amount.

The POI is a weighted, repeat-sales index, meaning that it measures average price changes in repeat sales of the same single-family properties. This information is obtained by reviewing repeat transactions involving conforming, conventional mortgages purchased or securitized by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac since January 1975. Only mortgage transactions involving single-family homes are included. Conforming refers to a mortgage that both meets the underwriting guidelines of Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac and that does not exceed the conforming loan limit that is currently \$625,000 for mortgages in the contiguous United States originated after September 30, 2011. Conventional mortgages are those that are neither insured nor guaranteed by the FHA, VA or other federal government entities. Mortgages on properties financed by government-insured loans, such as FHA or VA mortgages, are excluded from the POI, as are properties with mortgages that have a principal amount exceeding the conforming loan limit.

Subject to the calculation of the HPA as described below, the value set forth in the POI, or the POI Value, with respect to each of the 21 metropolitan statistical areas (each, an MSA) listed below, is used for the purpose of calculating HPA.

HPA for the Series A Participating Preferred Shares is calculated as follows:

(i) The change in HPA for each MSA since June 30, 2013 is calculated promptly following each date of FHFA's release of the POI for each quarter, or Index Release Date, in accordance with the following equation, where MSA_x represents any given MSA and HPA_x represents the change in HPA for such MSA:

$$\text{HPA}_x = ((\text{POI Value for MSA}_x \text{ as of the most recent Index Release Date} \div \text{POI Value for MSA}_x \text{ as of June 30, 2013}) \times 100) - 100$$

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(ii) The Cumulative HPA is the sum of the twenty-one (21) products of (A) the change in HPA for a given MSA since June 30, 2013 (expressed below as HPA_x and, for any given MSA, as calculated as described in paragraph (i) above and (B) the relative weighting for a given MSA (expressed below as W_x and, for any given MSA, as set forth in the table in paragraph (iii) below, divided by 100 in order to be expressed as a percentage, which will be calculated promptly following each Index Release Date in accordance with the following equation:

$$\text{Cumulative HPA} = ((HPA_1 \times W_1) + (HPA_2 \times W_2) + (HPA_3 \times W_3) + \dots (HPA_{21} \times W_{21})) \div 100$$

(iii) The following relative weightings for each MSA are used in determining Cumulative HPA in accordance with paragraph (ii) above:

MSA	Relative Weighting Applied in Determining Cumulative HPA
Dallas Plano Irving, TX(1)	4.754%
Fort Worth Arlington, TX(1)	4.754%
Indianapolis Carmel Anderson, IN	8.880%
Chicago Naperville Arlington Heights, IL	7.679%
Atlanta Sandy Springs Roswell, GA	7.545%
Nashville Davidson Murfreesboro Franklin, TN	6.390%
Houston The Woodlands Sugar Land, TX	6.312%
Cincinnati, OH KY IN	6.119%
Salt Lake City, UT	5.495%
Tampa St. Petersburg Clearwater, FL	5.361%
Charlotte Concord Gastonia, NC	5.354%
Phoenix Mesa Scottsdale, AZ	5.270%
Jacksonville, FL	4.776%
Las Vegas Henderson Paradise, NV	4.371%
Raleigh, NC	4.040%
Columbus, OH	3.167%
Orlando Kissimmee Sanford, FL	3.036%
Tucson, AZ	1.867%
Greensboro High Point, NC	1.789%
Austin Round Rock, TX	1.550%
San Antonio New Braunfels, TX	1.490%
TOTAL (21 MSAs)	100%

(1) Our Dallas-Fort Worth, TX market is comprised of the Dallas-Plano-Irving and Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Divisions.

The change in HPA for each MSA since June 30, 2013 is included in the calculation of Cumulative HPA regardless of whether it is positive, negative or zero. The home price appreciation factor, or HPA Factor, for any period equals the

product of Cumulative HPA (calculated as described above) for such period (expressed as a percentage) multiplied by a constant investor participation percentage of 50%. The HPA Amount, at any time it is measured, cannot be negative, so the liquidation preference per Series A Participating Preferred Share is always at least \$25.00.

The FHFA has historically released the POI for a given quarter near the end of the second month after the end of that quarter. We make available each quarter the quarterly measurement showing the aggregate HPA Amount per Series A Participating Preferred Share across quarters and weighted by markets based on the POI provided by the FHFA. We also provide updates and maintain such information on the [For Investors](#) page of our corporate website.

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If at any time prior to September 30, 2020, the FHFA no longer publishes the POI, or if the POI no longer covers one or more of our top 20 markets as of July 31, 2013, we will promptly make a good faith selection of a publicly available alternative index or indices after examining publicly available indices that are reasonably comparable to the POI to cover the market or markets no longer covered by the POI. If we select an alternative source or sources, we will disclose the new source for calculating the HPA Amount on the For Investors page of our corporate website and in a Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC. If a suitable public alternative source or sources is not available, we will, at our option, either redeem or convert the Series A Participating Preferred Shares within 135 days after the date that the POI was last published, as described in Redemption Redemption upon Absence of Suitable Indices Event (in the case of a redemption) or as described in Conversion Rights Conversion upon an Absence of Suitable Indices Event (in the case of a conversion).

The following table sets forth, for each of our top 20 markets, the actual POI Value as of June 30, 2013, and the date from which the HPA was measured for purposes of calculating the HPA Amount. The table also sets forth the calculations performed in order to assign a baseline value of 100.0 for all markets as of June 30, 2013 for purposes of calculating the change in HPA for such markets relative to such date.

Market	Relative Weighting Applied in Determining HPA(1)	Actual POI Value as of Jun 30, 2013(2)	Multiplier Applied to Establish Baseline Value(3)	Assigned Baseline Value(4)
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX(5)	9.507%	187.5	0.533	100.0
Indianapolis, IN	8.880%	164.5	0.608	100.0
Greater Chicago Area, IL(6)	7.679%	182.2	0.549	100.0
Atla				