

WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC

Form POS AM

March 11, 2004

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 11, 2004

Registration No. 333-85848

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 7

TO

FORM S-11

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Under

The Securities Act of 1933

WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in governing instruments)

6200 The Corners Parkway, Suite 250

Norcross, Georgia 30092

(770) 449-7800

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code,

of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Donald Kennicott, Esq.

Michael K. Rafter, Esq.

Holland & Knight LLP

One Atlantic Center, Suite 2000

1201 West Peachtree Street, N.W.

Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3400

(404) 817-8500

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number,

Including Area Code, of Registrant's Agent for Service)

Maryland
(State or other

Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

58-2328421
(I.R.S. Employer

Identification Number)

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. " _____

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. " _____

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. " _____

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, check the following box. " _____

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: As soon as practicable following effectiveness of this Registration Statement.

Table of Contents

[The following is text to a sticker to be attached to the front cover page of the prospectus in a manner that will not obscure the Risk Factors:]

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION The prospectus of Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. consists of this sticker, the prospectus dated July 26, 2002, Supplement No. 1 dated August 14, 2002, Supplement No. 2 dated August 29, 2002, Supplement No. 3 dated October 15, 2002, Supplement No. 4 dated December 10, 2002, Supplement No. 5 dated January 15, 2003, Supplement No. 6 dated April 14, 2003, Supplement No. 7 dated May 15, 2003, Supplement No. 8 dated June 15, 2003, Supplement No. 9 dated August 27, 2003, Supplement No. 10 dated September 15, 2003, Supplement No. 11 dated September 25, 2003, Supplement No. 12 dated October 20, 2003, Supplement No. 13 dated December 11, 2003, and Supplement No. 14 dated January 10, 2004. Supplement No. 1 includes descriptions of acquisitions of buildings in San Antonio, Texas; Houston, Texas; Duncan, South Carolina; and Suwanee, Georgia, updated unaudited financial statements and certain other revisions to the prospectus. Supplement No. 2 includes descriptions of acquisitions of buildings in Irving, Texas; and Austin, Texas, description of a lease of a build-to-suit office building in Chandler, Arizona, declaration of fourth quarter dividends and certain other revisions to the prospectus. Supplement No. 3 includes descriptions of acquisitions of buildings in Holtsville, New York; Parsippany, New Jersey; Indianapolis, Indiana; Colorado Springs, Colorado; Des Moines, Iowa; Plano, Texas; and Westlake, Texas, description of a build-to-suit office building in Chandler, Arizona, audited financial statements relating to acquisitions of buildings in Austin, Texas; Holtsville, New York; and Parsippany, New Jersey, and certain other revisions to the prospectus. Supplement No. 4 includes descriptions of acquisitions of buildings in Washington, D.C.; Glen Allen, Virginia; and Nashville, Tennessee, audited financial statements relating to acquisitions of buildings in Washington, D.C.; and Nashville, Tennessee, updated unaudited financial statements, declaration of first quarter dividends for 2003 and certain other revisions to the prospectus. Supplement No. 5 includes descriptions of acquisitions of buildings in Fishers, Indiana; Glendale, California; and Mayfield Heights, Ohio, description of the second transaction under the Section 1031 Exchange Program, audited financial statements relating to the acquisition of the building in Glendale, California, updated unaudited financial statements, and certain other revisions to the prospectus. Supplement No. 6 includes descriptions of acquisition of a building in Detroit, Michigan, declaration of second quarter dividends for 2003, updated financial statements and prior performance tables, revisions to the ERISA Considerations Annual Valuations section and certain other revisions to the prospectus. Supplement No. 7 includes descriptions of acquisitions of buildings in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Chicago, Illinois; and Auburn Hills, Michigan, updated status reports on three build-to-suit properties; description of a new unsecured line of credit, audited financial statements relating to the acquisition of the buildings in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Chicago, Illinois, updated unaudited financial statements of the Wells REIT for the first quarter of 2003, and certain other revisions to the prospectus. Supplement No. 8 includes description of a notice received from the NASD relating to an enforcement action and declaration of third quarter dividends for 2003. Supplement No. 9 includes descriptions of acquisitions of buildings in Reston, Virginia; Atlanta, Georgia; Rockville, Maryland; and Bridgewater, New Jersey, updated financial statements, revisions to the Management Executive Officers and Directors section, revisions to the Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations section, revisions to the Plan of Distribution Underwriting Compensation and Terms section, a description of the Settlement of the NASD enforcement action and certain other revisions to the prospectus. Supplement No. 10 includes descriptions of acquisitions of buildings in Pasadena, California; Brea, California; and Lyndhurst, New Jersey and certain other revisions to the prospectus. Supplement No. 11 describes the status of our Share Redemption Program, the formation of Wells Real Estate Investment Trust II, Inc., revisions to the Conflicts of Interest section, revisions to the Management The Advisor section, revisions to the Management Affiliated Companies Dealer Manager section and certain other revisions to the prospectus. Supplement No. 12 includes descriptions of a legal proceeding involving the Wells REIT, status of our Share Redemption Program, acquisitions of buildings in Irvine, California; Hoffman Estates, Illinois; and Beaverton, Oregon, sale of a building in Fountain Valley, California, revisions to the Management Executive Officers and Directors section, revisions to the Management The Advisor section, and certain other revisions to the prospectus. Supplement No. 13 includes descriptions of an acquisition of a partnership interest in an entity which owns a building in Chicago, Illinois; acquisition of all of the outstanding common stock of a real estate investment trust, which owns interests in three buildings in the Washington, DC area; acquisition of all of the membership interest in a limited liability company which owns a building in Arlington, Virginia, updated unaudited financial statements of the Wells REIT for the first quarter of 2003; and certain other revisions to the prospectus. Supplement No. 14 includes acquisitions of buildings in Issaquah, Washington; Brea, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; New York, New York; Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Tacoma, Washington, revisions to the Description of Shares Share Redemption Program section, revisions to the Management Affiliated Companies section, and certain other revisions to the prospectus.

Table of Contents

WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST, INC.

Up to 300,000,000 shares offered to the public

Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. (Wells REIT) is a real estate investment trust. We invest in commercial real estate properties primarily consisting of high grade office and industrial buildings leased to large corporate tenants. As of July 1, 2002, we owned interests in 53 real estate properties located in 19 states.

We are offering and selling to the public up to 300,000,000 shares for \$10 per share and up to 30,000,000 shares to be issued pursuant to our dividend reinvestment plan at a purchase price of \$10 per share. We are registering an additional 6,600,000 shares for issuance at \$12 per share to participating broker-dealers upon their exercise of warrants.

You must purchase at least 100 shares for \$1,000.

The most significant risks relating to your investment include the following:

lack of a public trading market for the shares;

reliance on Wells Capital, Inc., our advisor, to select properties and conduct our operations;

authorization of substantial fees to the advisor and its affiliates;

borrowing which increases the risk of loss of our investments; and

conflicts of interest facing the advisor and its affiliates.

You should see the complete discussion of the risk factors beginning on page 17.

The Offering:

The shares will be offered on a best efforts basis to investors at \$10 per share.

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

We will pay selling commissions to broker-dealers of 7% and a dealer manager fee of 2.5% out of the offering proceeds raised.

We will invest approximately 84% of the offering proceeds raised in real estate properties, and the balance will be used to pay fees and expenses.

This offering will terminate on or before July 25, 2004.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Attorney General of the State of New York nor any other state securities regulator has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. It is a criminal offense if someone tells you otherwise.

The use of projections or forecasts in this offering is prohibited. No one is permitted to make any oral or written predictions about the cash benefits or tax consequences you will receive from your investment.

WELLS INVESTMENT SECURITIES, INC.

July 26, 2002

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Questions and Answers About this Offering</u>	1
<u>Prospectus Summary</u>	10
<u>Risk Factors</u>	17
<u>Investment Risks</u>	17
<u>Real Estate Risks</u>	22
<u>Section 1031 Exchange Program Risks</u>	25
<u>Federal Income Tax Risks</u>	27
<u>Retirement Plan Risks</u>	28
<u>Suitability Standards</u>	28
<u>Estimated Use of Proceeds</u>	30
<u>Management</u>	31
<u>General</u>	31
<u>Committees of the Board of Directors</u>	33
<u>Executive Officers and Directors</u>	34
<u>Compensation of Directors</u>	38
<u>Independent Director Stock Option Plan</u>	38
<u>Independent Director Warrant Plan</u>	40
<u>2000 Employee Stock Option Plan</u>	40
<u>Limited Liability and Indemnification of Directors, Officers, Employees and Other Agents</u>	41
<u>The Advisor</u>	43
<u>The Advisory Agreement</u>	44
<u>Shareholdings</u>	46
<u>Affiliated Companies</u>	47
<u>Management Decisions</u>	49
<u>Management Compensation</u>	49
<u>Stock Ownership</u>	53
<u>Conflicts of Interest</u>	54
<u>Interests in Other Real Estate Programs</u>	54
<u>Other Activities of Wells Capital and its Affiliates</u>	55
<u>Competition</u>	55
<u>Affiliated Dealer Manager</u>	56
<u>Affiliated Property Manager</u>	56
<u>Lack of Separate Representation</u>	56
<u>Joint Ventures with Affiliates of Wells Capital</u>	56
<u>Receipt of Fees and Other Compensation by Wells Capital and its Affiliates</u>	56
<u>Certain Conflict Resolution Procedures</u>	57
<u>Investment Objectives and Criteria</u>	58
<u>General</u>	58
<u>Acquisition and Investment Policies</u>	59
<u>Development and Construction of Properties</u>	61
<u>Terms of Leases and Tenant Creditworthiness</u>	61
<u>Joint Venture Investments</u>	62
<u>Section 1031 Exchange Program</u>	63
<u>Borrowing Policies</u>	64
<u>Disposition Policies</u>	65
<u>Investment Limitations</u>	65
<u>Change in Investment Objectives and Limitations</u>	67

Table of Contents

<u>Description of Real Estate Investments</u>	67
<u>General</u>	67
<u>Joint Ventures with Affiliates</u>	71
<u>Description of Properties</u>	74
<u>Property Management Fees</u>	99
<u>Real Estate Loans</u>	99
<u>Selected Financial Data</u>	101
<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	101
<u>General</u>	101
<u>Liquidity and Capital Resources</u>	102
<u>Cash Flows From Operating Activities</u>	102
<u>Cash Flow From Investing Activities</u>	103
<u>Cash Flows From Financing Activities</u>	103
<u>Results of Operations</u>	103
<u>Property Operations</u>	104
<u>Funds From Operations</u>	105
<u>Inflation</u>	106
<u>Critical Accounting Policies</u>	106
<u>Straight-Lined Rental Revenues</u>	107
<u>Operating Cost Reimbursements</u>	107
<u>Real Estate</u>	107
<u>Deferred Project Costs</u>	107
<u>Deferred Offering Costs</u>	107
<u>Prior Performance Summary</u>	108
<u>Publicly Offered Unspecified Real Estate Programs</u>	109
<u>Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	117
<u>General</u>	117
<u>Requirements for Qualification as a REIT</u>	119
<u>Failure to Qualify as a REIT</u>	124
<u>Sale-Leaseback Transactions</u>	124
<u>Taxation of U.S. Stockholders</u>	124
<u>Treatment of Tax-Exempt Stockholders</u>	126
<u>Special Tax Considerations for Non-U.S. Stockholders</u>	127
<u>Statement of Stock Ownership</u>	129
<u>State and Local Taxation</u>	129
<u>Tax Aspects of Our Operating Partnership</u>	129
<u>ERISA Considerations</u>	132
<u>Plan Asset Considerations</u>	134
<u>Other Prohibited Transactions</u>	135
<u>Annual Valuation</u>	136
<u>Description of Shares</u>	137
<u>Common Stock</u>	137
<u>Preferred Stock</u>	137
<u>Meetings and Special Voting Requirements</u>	137
<u>Restriction on Ownership of Shares</u>	138
<u>Dividends</u>	139
<u>Dividend Reinvestment Plan</u>	140
<u>Share Redemption Program</u>	141
<u>Restrictions on Roll-Up Transactions</u>	142
<u>Business Combinations</u>	143
<u>Control Share Acquisitions</u>	143

Table of Contents

<u>The Operating Partnership Agreement</u>	143
<u>General</u>	143
<u>Capital Contributions</u>	144
<u>Operations</u>	144
<u>Exchange Rights</u>	145
<u>Transferability of Interests</u>	145
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	146
<u>General</u>	146
<u>Underwriting Compensation and Terms</u>	146
<u>Subscription Procedures</u>	150
<u>Supplemental Sales Material</u>	151
<u>Legal Opinions</u>	152
<u>Experts</u>	152
<u>Changes in Principal Accountant</u>	152
<u>Audited Financial Statements</u>	152
<u>Unaudited Financial Statements</u>	153
<u>Additional Information</u>	153
<u>Glossary</u>	153
<u>Financial Statements</u>	154
<u>Prior Performance Tables</u>	210
<u>Subscription Agreement</u>	Exhibit A
<u>Amended and Restated Dividend Reinvestment Plan</u>	Exhibit B

Table of Contents

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THIS OFFERING

Below we have provided some of the more frequently asked questions and answers relating to an offering of this type. Please see the Prospectus Summary and the remainder of this prospectus for more detailed information about this offering.

Q: What is a REIT?

A: In general, a REIT is a company that:

combines the capital of many investors to acquire or provide financing for real estate properties;

pays dividends to investors of at least 90% of its taxable income;

avoids the double taxation treatment of income that would normally result from investments in a corporation because a REIT is not generally subject to federal corporate income taxes on its net income, provided certain income tax requirements are satisfied; and

allows individual investors to invest in a large-scale diversified real estate portfolio through the purchase of interests, typically shares, in the REIT.

Q: What is Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc.?

A: Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. is a non-traded REIT formed with the intent to provide investors the potential for income and growth through the acquisition and operation of high-grade commercial office and industrial buildings leased long-term to high net worth companies (typically having a minimum net worth of \$100,000,000). The Wells REIT was incorporated in the State of Maryland in 1997.

Q: Who will choose which real estate properties to invest in?

A: Wells Capital, Inc. (Wells Capital) is the advisor to the Wells REIT and, as such, manages our daily affairs and makes recommendations on all property acquisitions to our board of directors. Our board of directors must approve all of our property acquisitions.

Q: Who is Wells Capital?

A: Wells Capital, as our advisor, provides investment advisory and management, marketing, sales and client services on our behalf. Wells Capital was incorporated in the State of Georgia in 1984. As of June 30, 2002, Wells Capital had sponsored public real estate programs which have raised in excess of \$1,795,000,000 from approximately 65,000 investors and which own and operate a total of 78 commercial real estate properties.

Table of Contents**Q: What are the specific criteria Wells Capital uses when selecting a potential property acquisition?**

A: Wells Capital generally seeks to acquire high quality office and industrial buildings located in densely populated metropolitan markets on an economically triple-net basis leased to large companies having a net worth in excess of \$100,000,000. Current tenants of public real estate programs sponsored by Wells Capital include The Coca-Cola Company, State Street Bank, AT&T, Siemens Automotive, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Novartis and SYSCO Corporation.

To find properties that best meet our selection criteria for investment, Wells Capital's property acquisition team studies regional demographics and market conditions and interviews local brokers to gain the practical knowledge that these studies sometimes lack. An experienced commercial construction engineer inspects the structural soundness and the operating systems of each building, and an environmental firm investigates all environmental issues to ensure each property meets our quality specifications.

Q: How many real estate properties do you currently own?

A: As of July 1, 2002, we had acquired and owned interests in 53 real estate properties, all of which were 100% leased to tenants. We own the following properties directly:

<u>Property Name</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Building Type</u>	<u>Location</u>
ISS Atlanta	Internet Security Systems, Inc.	Office Buildings	Atlanta, GA
MFS Phoenix	Massachusetts Financial Services Company	Office Building	Phoenix, AZ
TRW Denver	TRW, Inc.	Office Building	Aurora, CO
Agilent Boston	Agilent Technologies, Inc.	Office Building	Boxborough, MA
Experian/TRW	Experian Information Solutions, Inc.	Office Buildings	Allen, TX
BellSouth Ft. Lauderdale	BellSouth Advertising and Publishing Corporation	Office Building	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Agilent Atlanta	Agilent Technologies, Inc. and Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.	Office Building	Alpharetta, GA
Travelers Express Denver	Travelers Express Company, Inc.	Office Buildings	Lakewood, CO
Dana Kalamazoo	Dana Corporation	Office and Industrial Building	Kalamazoo, MI
Dana Detroit	Dana Corporation	Office and Research and Development Building	Farmington Hills, MI
Novartis Atlanta	Novartis Ophthalmics, Inc.	Office Building	Duluth, GA
Transocean Houston	Transocean Deepwater Offshore Drilling, Inc. and Newpark Drilling Fluids, Inc.	Office Building	Houston, TX
Arthur Andersen	Arthur Andersen LLP	Office Building	Sarasota, FL
Windy Point I	TCI Great Lakes, Inc., The Apollo Group, Inc., and Global Knowledge Network, Inc.	Office Building	Schaumburg, IL
Windy Point II	Zurich American Insurance Company, Inc.	Office Building	Schaumburg, IL
Convergys	Convergys Customer Management Group, Inc.	Office Building	Tamarac, FL

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

Lucent	Lucent Technologies, Inc.	Office Building	Cary, NC
Ingram Micro	Ingram Micro L.P.	Distribution Facility	Millington, TN
Nissan	Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation	Office Building	Irving, TX

Table of Contents

<u>Property Name</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Building Type</u>	<u>Location</u>
IKON	IKON Office Solutions, Inc.	Office Buildings	Houston, TX
State Street	SSB Realty LLC	Office Building	Quincy, MA
Metris Minnesota	Metris Direct, Inc.	Office Building	Minnetonka, MN
Stone & Webster	Stone & Webster, Inc. and SYSCO Corporation	Office Building	Houston, TX
Motorola Plainfield	Motorola, Inc.	Office Building	S. Plainfield, NJ
Delphi	Delphi Automotive Systems, Inc.	Office Building	Troy, MI
Avnet	Avnet, Inc.	Office Building	Tempe, AZ
Motorola Tempe	Motorola, Inc.	Office Building	Tempe, AZ
ASML	ASM Lithography, Inc.	Office and Warehouse Building	Tempe, AZ
Dial	Dial Corporation	Office Building	Scottsdale, AZ
Metris Tulsa	Metris Direct, Inc.	Office Building	Tulsa, OK
Cinemark	Cinemark USA, Inc. and The Coca-Cola Company	Office Building	Plano, TX
Videojet Technologies Chicago	Videojet Technologies, Inc.	Office, Assembly and Manufacturing Building	Wood Dale, IL
Alstom Power Richmond	Alstom Power, Inc.	Office Building	Midlothian, VA
Matsushita	Matsushita Avionics Systems Corporation	Office Building	Lake Forest, CA
PwC	PricewaterhouseCoopers	Office Building	Tampa, FL

We own interests in the following real estate properties through joint ventures with affiliates:

<u>Property Name</u>	<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Building Type</u>	<u>Location</u>
ADIC	Advanced Digital Information Corporation	Office Buildings	Parker, CO 1/8
AmeriCredit	AmeriCredit Financial Services Corporation	Office Building	Orange Park, FL
Comdata	Comdata Network, Inc.	Office Building	Brentwood, TN
AT&T Oklahoma	AT&T Corp. and Jordan Associates	Office Buildings	Oklahoma City, OK
Quest	Quest Software, Inc.	Office Building	Irvine, CA
Siemens	Siemens Automotive Corporation	Office Building	Troy, MI
Gartner	Gartner Group, Inc.	Office Building	Fort Myers, FL
Johnson Matthey	Johnson Matthey, Inc.	Research and Development, Office and Warehouse Building	Wayne, PA
Sprint	Sprint Communications Company L.P.	Office Building	Leawood, KS
EYBL CarTex	EYBL CarTex, Inc.	Manufacturing and Office Building	Fountain Inn, SC

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

Cort Furniture	Cort Furniture Rental Corporation	Office and Warehouse Building	Fountain Valley, CA
Fairchild	Fairchild Technologies U.S.A., Inc.	Manufacturing and Office Building	Fremont, CA
Avaya	Avaya, Inc.	Office Building	Oklahoma City, OK
Iomega	Iomega Corporation	Office and Warehouse Building	Ogden, UT
Interlocken	ODS Technologies, L.P. and GAIAM, Inc.	Office Building	Broomfield, CO
Ohmeda	Ohmeda, Inc.	Office Building	Louisville, CO
Alstom Power Knoxville	Alstom Power, Inc.	Office Building	Knoxville, TN

If you want to read more detailed information about each of these properties, see the [Description of Real Estate Investments](#) section of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

Q: Why do you acquire properties in joint ventures?

A: We acquire some of our properties in joint ventures in order to diversify our portfolio of properties in terms of geographic region, property type and industry group of our tenants.

Q: What steps do you take to make sure you purchase environmentally compliant property?

A: We always obtain a Phase I environmental assessment of each property purchased. In addition, we generally obtain a representation from the seller that, to its knowledge, the property is not contaminated with hazardous materials.

Q: What are the terms of your leases?

A: We seek to secure leases with creditworthy tenants prior to or at the time of the acquisition of a property. Our leases are generally economically triple-net leases, which means that the tenant is responsible for the cost of repairs, maintenance, property taxes, utilities, insurance and other operating costs. In most of our leases, we are responsible for replacement of specific structural components of a property such as the roof of the building or the parking lot. Our leases generally have terms of eight to 10 years, many of which have renewal options for additional five-year terms.

Q: How does the Wells REIT own its real estate properties?

A: We own all of our real estate properties through an UPREIT called Wells Operating Partnership, L.P. (Wells OP). Wells OP was organized to own, operate and manage real properties on our behalf. The Wells REIT is the sole general partner of Wells OP.

Q: What is an UPREIT ?

A: UPREIT stands for Umbrella Partnership Real Estate Investment Trust. The UPREIT structure is used because a sale of property directly to the REIT is generally a taxable transaction to the selling property owner. In an UPREIT structure, a seller of a property who desires to defer taxable gain on the sale of his property may transfer the property to the UPREIT in exchange for limited partnership units in the UPREIT and defer taxation of gain until the seller later exchanges his UPREIT units on a one-for-one basis for REIT shares. If the REIT shares are publicly traded, the former property owner will achieve liquidity for his investment. Using an UPREIT structure gives us an advantage in acquiring desired properties from persons who may not otherwise sell their properties because of unfavorable tax results.

Q: If I buy shares, will I receive dividends and how often?

A: We have been making and intend to continue to make dividend distributions on a quarterly basis to our stockholders. The amount of each dividend distribution is determined by our board of directors and typically depends on the amount of distributable funds, current and projected cash

Table of Contents

requirements, tax considerations and other factors. However, in order to remain qualified as a REIT, we must make distributions of at least 90% of our REIT taxable income.

Q: How do you calculate the payment of dividends to stockholders?

A: We calculate our quarterly dividends on a daily basis to stockholders of record so your dividend benefits will begin to accrue immediately upon becoming a stockholder.

Q: What have your dividend payments been since you began operations on June 5, 1998?

A: We have paid the following dividends since we began operations:

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Approximate Amount (Rounded)</u>	<u>Annualized Percentage Return on an Investment of \$10 per Share</u>
3rd Qtr. 1998	\$0.150 per share	6.00%
4th Qtr. 1998	\$0.163 per share	6.50%
1st Qtr. 1999	\$0.175 per share	7.00%
2nd Qtr. 1999	\$0.175 per share	7.00%
3rd Qtr. 1999	\$0.175 per share	7.00%
4th Qtr. 1999	\$0.175 per share	7.00%
1st Qtr. 2000	\$0.175 per share	7.00%
2nd Qtr. 2000	\$0.181 per share	7.25%
3rd Qtr. 2000	\$0.188 per share	7.50%
4th Qtr. 2000	\$0.188 per share	7.50%
1st Qtr. 2001	\$0.188 per share	7.50%
2nd Qtr. 2001	\$0.188 per share	7.50%
3rd Qtr. 2001	\$0.188 per share	7.50%
4th Qtr. 2001	\$0.194 per share	7.75%
1st Qtr. 2002	\$0.194 per share	7.75%
2nd Qtr. 2002	\$0.194 per share	7.75%
3rd Qtr. 2002	\$0.194 per share	7.75%

Q: May I reinvest my dividends in shares of the Wells REIT?

A: Yes. You may participate in our dividend reinvestment plan by checking the appropriate box on the Subscription Agreement or by filling out an enrollment form we will provide to you at your request. The purchase price for shares purchased under the dividend reinvestment plan is currently \$10 per share.

Table of Contents

Q: Will the dividends I receive be taxable as ordinary income?

A: Yes and No. Generally, dividends that you receive, including dividends that are reinvested pursuant to our dividend reinvestment plan, will be taxed as ordinary income to the extent they are from current or accumulated earnings and profits. We expect that some portion of your dividends will not be subject to tax in the year in which they are received because depreciation expenses reduce the amount of taxable income but do not reduce cash available for distribution. The portion of your distribution which is not subject to tax immediately is considered a return of capital for tax purposes and will reduce the tax basis of your investment. This, in effect, defers a portion of your tax until your investment is sold or the Wells REIT is liquidated, at which time you will be taxed at capital gains rates. However, because each investor's tax considerations are different, we suggest that you consult with your tax advisor. You should also review the section of the prospectus entitled "Federal Income Tax Considerations."

Q: What will you do with the money raised in this offering?

A: We will use your investment proceeds to purchase high-grade commercial office and industrial buildings. We intend to invest a minimum of 84% of the proceeds from this offering to acquire real estate properties, and the remaining proceeds will be used to pay fees and expenses of this offering and acquisition-related expenses. The payment of these fees and expenses will not reduce your invested capital. Your initial invested capital amount will remain \$10 per share, and your dividend yield will be based on your \$10 per share investment.

Until we invest the proceeds of this offering in real estate, we may invest in short-term, highly liquid or other authorized investments. Such short-term investments will not earn as high of a return as we expect to earn on our real estate investments, and we cannot guarantee how long it will take to fully invest the proceeds in real estate.

We received approximately \$132,181,919 in gross offering proceeds from the sale of 13,218,192 shares of common stock in our initial public offering, which commenced on January 30, 1998 and was terminated on December 19, 1999. Of the \$132,181,919 raised in the initial offering, we invested a total of \$111,032,812 in real estate properties. We received approximately \$175,229,193 in gross offering proceeds from the sale of 17,522,920 shares of common stock in our second public offering, which commenced on December 20, 1999 and was terminated on December 19, 2000. Of the \$175,229,193 raised in the second offering, we invested a total of \$147,192,522 in real estate properties. As of June 30, 2002, we had received approximately \$1,148,480,414 in gross offering proceeds from the sale of 114,895,413 shares of common stock in our third offering, which commenced on December 20, 2000. Of this additional \$1,148,480,414 raised in the third offering, we have invested \$627,067,589 in real estate properties and, as of June 30, 2002, we have \$344,269,118 available for investment in properties.

Q: What kind of offering is this?

A: We are offering the public up to 300,000,000 shares of common stock on a "best efforts" basis.

Table of Contents

Q: How does a best efforts offering work?

A: When shares are offered to the public on a best efforts basis, the brokers participating in the offering are only required to use their best efforts to sell the shares and have no firm commitment or obligation to purchase any of the shares.

Q: How long will this offering last?

A: The offering will not last beyond July 25, 2004.

Q: Who can buy shares?

A: You can buy shares pursuant to this prospectus provided that you have either (1) a net worth of at least \$45,000 and an annual gross income of at least \$45,000, or (2) a net worth of at least \$150,000. For this purpose, net worth does not include your home, home furnishings or personal automobiles. These minimum levels may be higher in certain states, so you should carefully read the more detailed description in the Suitability Standards section of this prospectus.

Q: Is there any minimum investment required?

A: Yes. Generally, you must invest at least \$1,000. Except in Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska and Washington, investors who already own our shares or who have purchased units from an affiliated Wells public real estate program can make purchases for less than the minimum investment. These minimum investment levels may be higher in certain states, so you should carefully read the more detailed description of the minimum investment requirements appearing later in the Suitability Standards section of this prospectus.

Q: How do I subscribe for shares?

A: If you choose to purchase shares in this offering, you will need to fill out a Subscription Agreement, like the one contained in this prospectus as Exhibit A, for a specific number of shares and pay for the shares at the time you subscribe.

Q: If I buy shares in this offering, how may I later sell them?

A: At the time you purchase the shares, they will not be listed for trading on any national securities exchange or over-the-counter market. In fact, we expect that there will not be any public market for the shares when you purchase them, and we cannot be sure if one will ever develop. As a result, you may find it difficult to find a buyer for your shares and realize a return on your investment. You may sell your shares to any buyer unless such sale would cause the buyer to own more than 9.8% of our outstanding stock. See Description of Shares Restriction on Ownership of Shares.

Table of Contents

In addition, after you have held your shares for at least one year, you may be able to have your shares repurchased by the Wells REIT pursuant to our share redemption program. See the [Description of Shares](#) [Share Redemption Program](#) section of the prospectus.

If we have not listed the shares on a national securities exchange or over-the-counter market by January 30, 2008, our articles of incorporation require us to begin selling our properties and other assets and return the net proceeds from these sales to our stockholders through distributions.

Q: What is the experience of your officers and directors?

A: Our management team has extensive previous experience investing in and managing commercial real estate. Below is a short description of the background of each of our directors. See the [Management](#) [Executive Officers and Directors](#) section on page 34 of this prospectus for a more detailed description of the background and experience of each of our directors.

Leo F. Wells, III President of the Wells REIT and founder of Wells Real Estate Funds and has been involved in real estate sales, management and brokerage services for over 30 years

Douglas P. Williams Executive Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Wells REIT and former accounting executive at OneSource, Inc., a supplier of janitorial and landscape services

John L. Bell Former owner and Chairman of Bell-Mann, Inc., the largest flooring contractor in the Southeast

Michael R. Buchanan Former Managing Director of the Real Estate Banking Group of Bank of America

Richard W. Carpenter Former President and Chairman of the Board of Southmark Properties, an Atlanta-based REIT investing in commercial properties

Bud Carter Former broadcast news director and anchorman and current Senior Vice President for The Executive Committee, an organization established to aid corporate presidents and CEOs

William H. Keogler, Jr. Founder and former executive officer and director of Keogler, Morgan & Company, Inc., a full service brokerage firm

Donald S. Moss Former executive officer of Avon Products, Inc.

Walter W. Sessoms Former executive officer of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

Neil H. Strickland Founder of Strickland General Agency, Inc., a property and casualty general insurance agency concentrating on commercial customers

Table of Contents

Q: Will I be notified of how my investment is doing?

A: Yes, you will receive periodic updates on the performance of your investment with us, including:

Four detailed quarterly dividend reports;

An annual report;

An annual IRS Form 1099;

Supplements to the prospectus;

A quarterly investor newsletter; and

Regular acquisition reports detailing our latest property acquisitions.

Q: When will I get my detailed tax information?

A: Your Form 1099 tax information will be placed in the mail by January 31 of each year.

Q: Who can help answer my questions?

A: If you have more questions about the offering or if you would like additional copies of this prospectus, you should contact your registered representative or contact:

Client Services Department

Wells Real Estate Funds, Inc.

Suite 250

6200 The Corners Parkway

Atlanta, Georgia 30092

(800) 557-4830 or (770) 243-8282

www.wellsref.com

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This prospectus summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere in this prospectus. It is not complete and does not contain all of the information that is important to your decision whether to invest in the Wells REIT. To understand this offering fully, you should read the entire prospectus carefully, including the Risk Factors section and the financial statements.

Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc.

Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. is a REIT that owns net leased commercial real estate properties. As of July 1, 2002, we owned interests in 53 commercial real estate properties located in 19 states. Our office is located at 6200 The Corners Parkway, Suite 250, Atlanta, Georgia 30092. Our telephone number outside the State of Georgia is 800-557-4830 (770-243-8282 in Georgia). We refer to Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. as the Wells REIT in this prospectus.

Our Advisor

Our advisor is Wells Capital, Inc., which is responsible for managing our affairs on a day-to-day basis and for identifying and making acquisitions on our behalf. We refer to Wells Capital, Inc. as Wells Capital in this prospectus.

Our Management

Our board of directors must approve each real property acquisition proposed by Wells Capital, as well as certain other matters set forth in our articles of incorporation. We have ten members on our board of directors. Eight of our directors are independent of Wells Capital and have responsibility for reviewing its performance. Our directors are elected annually by the stockholders.

Our REIT Status

As a REIT, we generally are not subject to federal income tax on income that we distribute to our stockholders. Under the Internal Revenue Code, REITs are subject to numerous organizational and operational requirements, including a requirement that they distribute at least 90% of their taxable income to their stockholders. If we fail to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any year, our income will be taxed at regular corporate rates, and we may be precluded from qualifying for treatment as a REIT for the four-year period following our failure to qualify. Even if we qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes, we may still be subject to state and local taxes on our income and property and to federal income and excise taxes on our undistributed income.

Summary Risk Factors

Following are the most significant risks relating to your investment:

There is no public trading market for the shares, and we cannot assure you that one will ever develop. Until the shares are publicly traded, you will have a difficult time trying to sell your shares.

You must rely on Wells Capital, our advisor, for the day-to-day management of our business and the selection of our real estate properties.

Table of Contents

To ensure that we continue to qualify as a REIT, our articles of incorporation prohibit any stockholder from owning more than 9.8% of our outstanding shares.

We may not remain qualified as a REIT for federal income tax purposes, which would subject us to the payment of tax on our income at corporate rates and reduce the amount of funds available for payment of dividends to our stockholders.

You will not have preemptive rights as a stockholder, so any shares we issue in the future may dilute your interest in the Wells REIT.

We will pay significant fees to Wells Capital and its affiliates.

Real estate investments are subject to cyclical trends that are out of our control.

You will not have an opportunity to evaluate all of the properties that will be in our portfolio prior to investing.

Loans we obtain will be secured by some of our properties, which will put those properties at risk of forfeiture if we are unable to pay our debts.

Our investment in vacant land to be developed may create risks relating to the builder's ability to control construction costs, failure to perform or failure to build in conformity with plans, specifications and timetables.

The vote of stockholders owning at least a majority of our shares will bind all of the stockholders as to certain matters such as the election of our directors and amendment of our articles of incorporation.

If we do not obtain listing of the shares on a national exchange by January 30, 2008, our articles of incorporation provide that we must begin to sell all of our properties and distribute the net proceeds to our stockholders.

Our advisor will face various conflicts of interest resulting from its activities with affiliated entities.

Before you invest in the Wells REIT, you should see the complete discussion of the Risk Factors beginning on page 17 of this prospectus.

Description of Real Estate Investments

Please refer to the Description of Real Estate Investments section of this prospectus for a description of the real estate properties we have purchased to date and the various real estate loans we have outstanding. Wells Capital is currently evaluating additional potential property acquisitions. As we acquire new properties, we will provide supplements to this prospectus to describe these properties.

Estimated Use of Proceeds of Offering

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

We anticipate that we will invest at least 84% of the proceeds of this offering in real estate properties. We will use the remainder of the offering proceeds to pay selling commissions, fees and expenses relating to the selection and acquisition of properties and the costs of the offering.

Table of Contents

Investment Objectives

Our investment objectives are:

to maximize cash dividends paid to you;

to preserve, protect and return your capital contribution;

to realize growth in the value of our properties upon our ultimate sale of such properties; and

to provide you with liquidity of your investment by listing the shares on a national exchange or, if we do not obtain listing of the shares by January 30, 2008, by selling our properties and distributing the cash to you.

We may only change these investment objectives by a vote of our stockholders holding a majority of our outstanding shares. See the Investment Objectives and Criteria section of this prospectus for a more complete description of our business and objectives.

Conflicts of Interest

Wells Capital, as our advisor, will experience conflicts of interest in connection with the management of our business affairs, including the following:

Wells Capital will have to allocate its time between the Wells REIT and other real estate programs and activities in which it is involved;

Wells Capital must determine which properties the Wells REIT or another Wells program or joint venture should acquire and which Wells program or other entity should enter into a joint venture with the Wells REIT for the acquisition and operation of specific properties;

Wells Capital may compete with other Wells programs for the same tenants in negotiating leases or in selling similar properties at the same time; and

Wells Capital and its affiliates will receive fees in connection with transactions involving the purchase, management and sale of our properties regardless of the quality of the property acquired or the services provided to us.

See the Conflicts of Interest section of this prospectus on page 54 for a detailed discussion of the various conflicts of interest relating to your investment, as well as the procedures that we have established to resolve a number of these potential conflicts.

Table of Contents

The following chart shows the ownership structure of the various Wells entities that are affiliated with Wells Capital.

Prior Offering Summary

Wells Capital and its affiliates have previously sponsored 14 publicly offered real estate limited partnerships and the Wells REIT on an unspecified property or "blind pool" basis. As of June 30, 2002, they have raised approximately \$1,795,000,000 from approximately 65,000 investors in these 15 public real estate programs. The "Prior Performance Summary" on page 108 of this prospectus contains a discussion of the Wells programs sponsored to date. Certain statistical data relating to the Wells programs with investment objectives similar to ours is also provided in the "Prior Performance Tables" included at the end of this prospectus.

The Offering

We are offering up to 300,000,000 shares to the public at \$10 per share and up to 30,000,000 shares pursuant to our dividend reinvestment plan at \$10 per share. We reserve the right in the future to reallocate additional dividend reinvestment shares out of the shares we are offering to the public, if necessary. We are also offering up to 6,600,000 shares to broker-dealers pursuant to warrants whereby participating broker-dealers will have the right to purchase one share for every 50 shares they sell in this offering. The exercise price for shares purchased pursuant to the warrants is \$12 per share.

Table of Contents**Terms of the Offering**

We will begin selling shares in this offering upon the effective date of this prospectus, and this offering will terminate on or before July 25, 2004. However, we may terminate this offering at any time prior to such termination date. We will hold your investment proceeds in our account until we withdraw funds for the acquisition of real estate properties or the payment of fees and expenses. We generally admit stockholders to the Wells REIT on a daily basis.

Compensation to Wells Capital

Wells Capital and its affiliates will receive compensation and fees for services relating to this offering and the investment and management of our assets. The most significant items of compensation are included in the following table:

<u>Type of Compensation</u>	<u>Form of Compensation</u>	<u>Estimated \$\$ Amount for Maximum Offering (330,000,000 shares)</u>
<i>Offering Stage</i>		
Selling Commissions	7.0% of gross offering proceeds	\$231,000,000
Dealer Manager Fee	2.5% of gross offering proceeds	\$82,500,000
Organization and Offering Expenses	3.0% of gross offering proceeds	\$49,500,000 (estimated)
<i>Acquisition and Development Stage</i>		
Acquisition and Advisory Fees	3.0% of gross offering proceeds	\$99,000,000
Acquisition Expenses	0.5% of gross offering proceeds	\$16,500,000
<i>Operational Stage</i>		
Property Management	4.5% of gross revenues	N/A
Initial Lease-Up Fee for Newly Constructed Property	Competitive fee for geographic location of property based on a survey of brokers and agents (customarily equal to the first month's rent)	N/A
Real Estate Commissions	3.0% of contract price for properties sold after investors receive a return of capital plus an 8.0% return on capital	N/A
Subordinated Participation In Net Sale Proceeds (Payable only if the Wells REIT is not listed on an exchange)	10.0% of remaining amounts of net sale proceeds after return of capital plus payment to investors of an 8.0% cumulative non-compounded return on the capital contributed by investors	N/A
Subordinated Incentive Listing Fee (Payable only if the Wells REIT is listed on an exchange)	10.0% of the amount by which the adjusted market value of the Wells REIT exceeds the aggregate capital contributions contributed by investors	N/A

Table of Contents

There are many additional conditions and restrictions on the amount of compensation Wells Capital and its affiliates may receive. There are also some smaller items of compensation and expense reimbursements that Wells Capital may receive. For a more detailed explanation of these fees and expenses payable to Wells Capital and its affiliates, please see the **Management Compensation** section of this prospectus on page 49.

Dividend Policy

In order to remain qualified as a REIT, we are required to distribute 90% of our annual taxable income to our stockholders. We have paid dividends to our stockholders at least quarterly since the first quarter after we commenced operations on June 5, 1998. We calculate our quarterly dividends based upon daily record and dividend declaration dates so investors will be entitled to dividends immediately upon purchasing our shares. We expect to pay dividends to you on a quarterly basis.

Listing

Our articles of incorporation allow us to list our shares on a national securities exchange on or before January 30, 2008. In the event we do not obtain listing prior to that date, our articles of incorporation require us to begin selling our properties and liquidating our assets.

Dividend Reinvestment Plan

You may participate in our dividend reinvestment plan pursuant to which you may have the dividends you receive reinvested in shares of the Wells REIT. If you participate, you will be taxed on your share of our taxable income even though you will not receive the cash from your dividends. As a result, you may have a tax liability without receiving cash dividends to pay such liability. We may terminate the dividend reinvestment plan at our discretion at any time upon 10 days notice to you. (See **Description of Shares** **Dividend Reinvestment Plan**.)

Share Redemption Program

We may use proceeds received from the sale of shares pursuant to our dividend reinvestment plan to redeem your shares. After you have held your shares for a minimum of one year, our share redemption program provides an opportunity for you to redeem your shares, subject to certain restrictions and limitations, for the lesser of \$10 per share or the price you actually paid for your shares. Our board of directors reserves the right to amend or terminate the share redemption program at any time. Our board of directors has delegated to our officers the right to (1) waive the one-year holding period in the event of the death or bankruptcy of a stockholder or other exigent circumstances, or (2) reject any request for redemption at any time and for any reason. You will have no right to request redemption of your shares should our shares become listed on a national exchange. (See **Description of Shares** **Share Redemption Program**.)

Wells Operating Partnership, L.P.

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

We own all of our real estate properties through Wells Operating Partnership, L.P. (Wells OP), our operating partnership. We are the sole general partner of Wells OP. Wells Capital is currently the only limited partner based on its initial contribution of \$200,000. Our ownership of properties in Wells OP is referred to as an UPREIT. The UPREIT structure allows us to acquire real estate properties in exchange for limited partnership units in Wells OP. This structure will also allow sellers of properties to transfer their properties to Wells OP in exchange for units of Wells OP

Table of Contents

and defer gain recognition for tax purposes with respect to such transfers of properties. At present, we have no plans to acquire any specific properties in exchange for units of Wells OP. The holders of units in Wells OP may have their units redeemed for cash under certain circumstances. (See The Operating Partnership Agreement.)

ERISA Considerations

The section of this prospectus entitled ERISA Considerations describes the effect the purchase of shares will have on individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and retirement plans subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA), and/or the Internal Revenue Code. ERISA is a federal law that regulates the operation of certain tax-advantaged retirement plans. Any retirement plan trustee or individual considering purchasing shares for a retirement plan or an IRA should read this section of the prospectus very carefully.

Description of Shares

General

Your investment will be recorded on our books only. We will not issue stock certificates. If you wish to transfer your shares, you are required to send us an executed transfer form. We will provide you the required form upon request.

Stockholder Voting Rights and Limitations

We hold annual meetings of our stockholders for the purpose of electing our directors or conducting other business matters that may be presented at such meetings. We may also call a special meeting of stockholders from time to time for the purpose of conducting certain matters. You are entitled to one vote for each share you own at any of these meetings.

Restriction on Share Ownership

Our articles of incorporation contain restrictions on ownership of the shares that prevents one person from owning more than 9.8% of our outstanding shares. These restrictions are designed to enable us to comply with share accumulation restrictions imposed on REITs by the Internal Revenue Code. (See Description of Shares Restriction on Ownership of Shares.)

For a more complete description of the shares, including restrictions on the ownership of shares, please see the Description of Shares section of this prospectus on page 137.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Your purchase of shares involves a number of risks. In addition to other risks discussed in this prospectus, you should specifically consider the following:

Investment Risks

Marketability Risk

There is no public trading market for your shares.

There is no current public market for the shares and, therefore, it will be difficult for you to sell your shares promptly. In addition, the price received for any shares sold is likely to be less than the proportionate value of the real estate we own. Therefore, you should purchase the shares only as a long-term investment. See [Description of Shares](#) [Share Redemption Program](#) for a description of our share redemption program.

Management Risks

You must rely on Wells Capital for selection of properties.

Our ability to achieve our investment objectives and to pay dividends is dependent upon the performance of Wells Capital, our advisor, in the quality and timeliness of our acquisitions of real estate properties, the selection of tenants and the determination of any financing arrangements. Except for the investments described in this prospectus, you will have no opportunity to evaluate the terms of transactions or other economic or financial data concerning our investments. You must rely entirely on the management ability of Wells Capital and the oversight of our board of directors.

We depend on key personnel.

Our success depends to a significant degree upon the continued contributions of certain key personnel, including Leo F. Wells, III, Douglas P. Williams, M. Scott Meadows, David H. Steinwedell, and John G. Oliver, each of whom would be difficult to replace. None of our key personnel are currently subject to employment agreements, nor do we maintain any key person life insurance on our key personnel. If any of our key personnel were to cease employment with us, our operating results could suffer. We also believe that our future success depends, in large part, upon our ability to hire and retain highly skilled managerial, operational and marketing personnel. Competition for such personnel is intense, and we cannot assure you that we will be successful in attracting and retaining such skilled personnel.

Conflicts of Interest Risks

Wells Capital will face conflicts of interest relating to time management.

Wells Capital, our advisor, and its affiliates are general partners and sponsors of other real estate programs having investment objectives and legal and financial obligations similar to the Wells REIT. Because Wells Capital and its affiliates have interests in other real estate programs and also engage in other business activities, they may have conflicts of interest in allocating their time between our business and these other activities. During times of intense activity in other programs and ventures, they may devote less time and resources to our business than is necessary or appropriate. (See *Conflicts of Interest.*) If Wells Capital, for any reason, is not able to provide investment opportunities to us consistent with our investment objectives in a timely manner, we may have lower returns on our investments.

Table of Contents

Wells Capital will face conflicts of interest relating to the purchase and leasing of properties.

We may be buying properties at the same time as one or more of the other Wells programs are buying properties. There is a risk that Wells Capital will choose a property that provides lower returns to us than a property purchased by another Wells program. We may acquire properties in geographic areas where other Wells programs own properties. If one of the Wells programs attracts a tenant that we are competing for, we could suffer a loss of revenue due to delays in locating another suitable tenant. (See Conflicts of Interest.)

Certain of our officers and directors face conflicts of interest relating to the positions they hold with other entities.

Certain of our executive officers and directors are also officers and directors of Wells Capital, our advisor and the general partner of various other Wells programs, Wells Management Company, Inc., our Property Manager, and Wells Investment Securities, Inc., our Dealer Manager, and, as such, owe fiduciary duties to these various entities and their stockholders and limited partners. Such fiduciary duties may from time to time conflict with the fiduciary duties owed to the Wells REIT and its stockholders. (See Conflicts of Interest.)

We will be subject to additional risks as a result of our joint ventures with affiliates.

We have entered in the past and are likely to continue in the future to enter into joint ventures with other Wells programs for the acquisition, development or improvement of properties. We may also purchase and develop properties in joint ventures or in partnerships, co-tenancies or other co-ownership arrangements with sellers of properties, affiliates of sellers, developers or other persons. Such investments may involve risks not otherwise present with an investment in real estate, including, for example:

the possibility that our co-venturer, co-tenant or partner in an investment might become bankrupt;

that such co-venturer, co-tenant or partner may at any time have economic or business interests or goals which are or which become inconsistent with our business interests or goals; or

that such co-venturer, co-tenant or partner may be in a position to take action contrary to our instructions or requests or contrary to our policies or objectives.

Actions by such a co-venturer, co-tenant or partner might have the result of subjecting the property to liabilities in excess of those contemplated and may have the effect of reducing your returns.

Wells Capital will face conflicts of interest relating to joint ventures with affiliates.

Wells Capital, our advisor, is currently sponsoring a public offering on behalf of Wells Real Estate Fund XIII, L.P. (Wells Fund XIII), which is an unspecified property real estate program. (See Prior Performance Summary.) In the event that we enter into a joint venture with Wells Fund

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

XIII or any other Wells program or joint venture, we may face certain additional risks and potential conflicts of interest. For example, securities issued by Wells Fund XIII and the other Wells public limited partnerships will never have an active trading market. Therefore, if we were to become listed on a national exchange, we may no longer have similar goals and objectives with respect to the resale of properties in the future. In addition, in the event that the Wells REIT is not listed on a securities exchange

Table of Contents

by January 30, 2008, our organizational documents provide for an orderly liquidation of our assets. In the event of such liquidation, any joint venture between the Wells REIT and another Wells program may be required to sell its properties at such time. Our joint venture partners may not desire to sell the properties at that time. Although the terms of any joint venture agreement between the Wells REIT and another Wells program would grant the other Wells program a right of first refusal to buy such properties, it is unlikely that any such program would have sufficient funds to exercise its right of first refusal under these circumstances.

Agreements and transactions between the parties with respect to joint ventures between the Wells REIT and other Wells programs will not have the benefit of arm's length negotiation of the type normally conducted between unrelated co-venturers. Under these joint venture agreements, none of the co-venturers may have the power to control the venture, and an impasse could be reached regarding matters pertaining to the joint venture, which might have a negative impact on the joint venture and decrease potential returns to you. In the event that a co-venturer has a right of first refusal to buy out the other co-venturer, it may be unable to finance such buy-out at that time. It may also be difficult for us to sell our interest in any such joint venture or partnership or as a co-tenant in property. In addition, to the extent that our co-venturer, partner or co-tenant is an affiliate of Wells Capital, certain conflicts of interest will exist. (See [Conflicts of Interest - Joint Ventures with Affiliates of Wells Capital.](#))

General Investment Risks

A limit on the number of shares a person may own may discourage a takeover.

Our articles of incorporation restrict ownership by one person to no more than 9.8% of the outstanding shares. This restriction may discourage a change of control of the Wells REIT and may deter individuals or entities from making tender offers for shares, which offers might be financially attractive to stockholders or which may cause a change in the management of the Wells REIT. (See [Description of Shares - Restriction on Ownership of Shares.](#))

We will not be afforded the protection of Maryland Corporation Law relating to business combinations.

Provisions of Maryland Corporation Law prohibit business combinations, unless prior approval of the board of directors is obtained before the person became an interested stockholder, with:

any person who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of our outstanding shares;

any of our affiliates who, at any time within the two year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of our outstanding shares (interested stockholder); or

an affiliate of an interested stockholder.

These prohibitions are intended to prevent a change of control by interested stockholders who do not have the support of our board of directors. Since our articles of incorporation contain limitations on ownership of 9.8% or more of our common stock, we opted out of the business combinations statute in our articles of incorporation. Therefore, we will not be afforded the protections of this statute and, accordingly, there is no guarantee that the ownership limitations in our articles of incorporation would provide the same measure of protection as the business

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

combinations statute and prevent an undesired change of control by an interested stockholder. (See Description of Shares Restriction on Ownership of Shares and Description of Shares Business Combinations.)

Table of Contents

You are bound by the majority vote on matters on which you are entitled to vote.

You may vote on certain matters at any annual or special meeting of our stockholders, including the election of our directors or amendments to our articles of incorporation. However, you will be bound by the majority vote on matters requiring approval of a majority of our stockholders even if you do not vote with the majority on any such matter.

You are limited in your ability to sell your shares pursuant to our share redemption program.

Even though our share redemption program provides you with the opportunity to redeem your shares for \$10 per share (or the price you paid for the shares, if lower than \$10) after you have held them for a period of one year, you should be fully aware that our share redemption program contains certain restrictions and limitations. Shares will be redeemed on a first-come, first-served basis and will be limited to the lesser of (1) during any calendar year, three percent (3%) of the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the prior calendar year, or (2) the proceeds we receive from the sale of shares under our dividend reinvestment plan such that in no event shall the aggregate amount of redemptions under our share redemption program exceed aggregate proceeds received from the sale of shares pursuant to our dividend reinvestment plan. Our board of directors reserves the right to amend or terminate the share redemption program at any time. In addition, the board of directors has delegated authority to our officers to reject any request for redemption for any reason at any time. Therefore, in making a decision to purchase shares of the Wells REIT, you should not assume that you will be able to sell any of your shares back to us pursuant to our share redemption program. (See Description of Shares Share Redemption Program.)

We established the offering price on an arbitrary basis.

Our board of directors has arbitrarily determined the selling price of the shares, and such price bears no relationship to any established criteria for valuing issued or outstanding shares.

Your interest in the Wells REIT may be diluted if we issue additional shares.

Existing stockholders and potential investors in this offering do not have preemptive rights to any shares issued by the Wells REIT in the future. Therefore, existing stockholders and investors purchasing shares in this offering may experience dilution of their equity investment in the Wells REIT in the event that we:

sell shares in this offering or sell additional shares in the future, including those issued pursuant to the dividend reinvestment plan;

sell securities that are convertible into shares;

issue shares in a private offering of securities to institutional investors;

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

issue shares of common stock upon the exercise of the options granted to our independent directors or employees of Wells Capital and Wells Management Company, Inc. (Wells Management) or the warrants issued and to be issued to participating broker-dealers or our independent directors; or

issue shares to sellers of properties acquired by us in connection with an exchange of limited partnership units from Wells OP.

Table of Contents

Payment of fees to Wells Capital and its affiliates will reduce cash available for investment and distribution.

Wells Capital and its affiliates will perform services for us in connection with the offer and sale of the shares, the selection and acquisition of our properties, and the management and leasing of our properties. They will be paid substantial fees for these services, which will reduce the amount of cash available for investment in properties or distribution to our stockholders. (See Management Compensation.)

The availability and timing of cash dividends is uncertain.

We bear all expenses incurred in our operations, which are deducted from cash funds generated by operations prior to computing the amount of cash dividends to be distributed to our stockholders. In addition, our board of directors, in its discretion, may retain any portion of such funds for working capital. We cannot assure you that sufficient cash will be available to pay dividends to you.

We are uncertain of our sources for funding of future capital needs.

Substantially all of the gross proceeds of the offering will be used for investment in properties and for payment of various fees and expenses. (See Estimated Use of Proceeds.) In addition, we do not anticipate that we will maintain any permanent working capital reserves. Accordingly, in the event that we develop a need for additional capital in the future for the improvement of our properties or for any other reason, we have not identified any sources for such funding, and we cannot assure you that such sources of funding will be available to us for potential capital needs in the future.

You will not have the benefit of independent due diligence review in connection with this offering.

Since Wells Investment Securities, our Dealer Manager, is an affiliate of Wells Capital, you will not have the benefit of independent due diligence review and investigation of the type normally performed by unaffiliated, independent underwriters in connection with securities offerings.

The conviction of Arthur Andersen LLP and recent events related thereto may adversely affect your ability to recover potential claims against Arthur Andersen in connection with their audits of our financials statements.

In June 2002, our former independent auditor, Arthur Andersen LLP (Andersen), was tried and convicted on federal obstruction of justice charges arising from its involvement as auditors for Enron Corporation. Events arising out of the conviction or other events relating to the financial condition of Andersen may adversely affect the ability of Andersen to satisfy any potential claims that may arise out of Andersen's audits of the financial statements contained in this prospectus. In addition, Andersen has notified us that it will no longer be able to provide us with the necessary consents related to previously audited financial statements in our prospectus. Our inability to obtain such consents may also adversely affect your ability to pursue potential claims against Andersen.

Table of Contents

Real Estate Risks

General Real Estate Risks

Your investment will be affected by adverse economic and regulatory changes.

We will be subject to risks generally incident to the ownership of real estate, including:

changes in general economic or local conditions;

changes in supply of or demand for similar or competing properties in an area;

changes in interest rates and availability of permanent mortgage funds which may render the sale of a property difficult or unattractive;

changes in tax, real estate, environmental and zoning laws; and

periods of high interest rates and tight money supply.

For these and other reasons, we cannot assure you that we will be profitable or that we will realize growth in the value of our real estate properties.

A property that incurs a vacancy could be difficult to sell or re-lease.

A property may incur a vacancy either by the continued default of a tenant under its lease or the expiration of one of our leases. A number of our properties may be specifically suited to the particular needs of our tenants. Therefore, we may have difficulty obtaining a new tenant for any vacant space we have in our properties. If the vacancy continues for a long period of time, we may suffer reduced revenues resulting in less cash dividends to be distributed to stockholders. In addition, the resale value of the property could be diminished because the market value of a particular property will depend principally upon the value of the leases of such property.

We are dependent on tenants for our revenue.

Most of our properties are occupied by a single tenant and, therefore, the success of our investments are materially dependent on the financial stability of our tenants. Lease payment defaults by tenants would most likely cause us to reduce the amount of distributions to stockholders. A

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

default of a tenant on its lease payments to us would cause us to lose the revenue from the property and cause us to have to find one or more additional tenants. If there are a substantial number of tenants that are in default at any one time, we could have difficulty making mortgage payments that could result in foreclosures of properties subject to a mortgage. In the event of a default, we may experience delays in enforcing our rights as landlord and may incur substantial costs in protecting our investment and re-letting our property. If a lease is terminated, we cannot assure you that we will be able to lease the property for the rent previously received or sell the property without incurring a loss.

We rely on certain tenants.

As of July 1, 2002, our most substantial tenants based on rental income are SSB Realty, LLC (approximately 6.3%), Metris Direct, Inc. (approximately 5.6%), Motorola, Inc. (approximately 4.7%), and Zurich American Insurance Company, Inc. (approximately 4.6%). The revenues generated by the properties these tenants occupy are substantially reliant upon the financial condition of these tenants and, accordingly, any event of bankruptcy, insolvency or a general downturn in the business of any of these tenants may result in the failure or delay of such tenant's rental payments which may have a substantial

Table of Contents

adverse effect on our financial performance. (See Description of Real Estate Investments and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.)

We may not have funding for future tenant improvements.

When a tenant at one of our properties does not renew its lease or otherwise vacates its space in one of our buildings, it is likely that, in order to attract one or more new tenants, we will be required to expend substantial funds for tenant improvements and tenant refurbishments to the vacated space. Substantially all of our net offering proceeds will be invested in real estate properties, and we do not anticipate that we will maintain permanent working capital reserves. We also have no identified funding source to provide funds which may be required in the future for tenant improvements and tenant refurbishments in order to attract new tenants. We cannot assure you that we will have any sources of funding available to us for such purposes in the future.

Uninsured losses relating to real property may adversely affect your returns.

In the event that any of our properties incurs a casualty loss that is not fully covered by insurance, the value of our assets will be reduced by any such uninsured loss. In addition, we have no current source of funding to repair or reconstruct the damaged property and cannot assure you that any such source of funding will be available to us for such purposes in the future.

Development and construction of properties may result in delays and increased costs and risks.

We may invest some or all of the proceeds available for investment in the acquisition and development of properties upon which we will develop and construct improvements at a fixed contract price. We will be subject to risks relating to the builder's ability to control construction costs or to build in conformity with plans, specifications and timetables. The builder's failure to perform may necessitate legal action by us to rescind the purchase or the construction contract or to compel performance. Performance may also be affected or delayed by conditions beyond the builder's control. Delays in completion of construction could also give tenants the right to terminate preconstruction leases for space at a newly developed project. We may incur additional risks when we make periodic progress payments or other advances to such builders prior to completion of construction. Factors such as those discussed above can result in increased costs of a project or loss of our investment. In addition, we will be subject to normal lease-up risks relating to newly constructed projects. Furthermore, we must rely upon projections of rental income and expenses and estimates of the fair market value of property upon completion of construction when agreeing upon a price to be paid for the property at the time of acquisition of the property. If our projections are inaccurate, we may pay too much for a property.

Competition for investments may increase costs and reduce returns.

We will experience competition for real property investments from individuals, corporations and bank and insurance company investment accounts, as well as other real estate investment trusts, real estate limited partnerships, and other entities engaged in real estate investment activities. Competition for investments may have the effect of increasing costs and reducing your returns.

Delays in acquisitions of properties may have an adverse effect on your investment.

Delays we encounter in the selection, acquisition and development of properties could adversely affect your returns. Where we acquire properties prior to the start of construction or during the early stages of construction, it will typically take several months to complete construction and rent available space. Therefore, you could suffer delays in the distribution of cash dividends attributable to those

Table of Contents

particular properties. In addition, if we are unable to invest our offering proceeds in income producing real properties in a timely manner, we may not be able to continue to pay the dividend rates we are currently paying to our stockholders.

We may not be able to immediately invest proceeds in real estate.

Until we invest the proceeds of this offering in real estate investments, we may invest in short-term, highly liquid or other authorized investments. Such short-term investments are not likely to earn as high a return as we expect to earn on our real estate investments, and we cannot guarantee how long it will take us to fully invest the proceeds of this offering in real estate investments.

Uncertain market conditions and Wells Capital's broad discretion relating to the future disposition of properties could adversely affect the return on your investment.

We generally will hold the various real properties in which we invest until such time as Wells Capital determines that a sale or other disposition appears to be advantageous to achieve our investment objectives or until it appears that such objectives will not be met. Otherwise, Wells Capital, subject to the approval of our board of directors, may exercise its discretion as to whether and when to sell a property, and we will have no obligation to sell properties at any particular time, except upon a liquidation of the Wells REIT if we do not list the shares by January 30, 2008. We cannot predict with any certainty the various market conditions affecting real estate investments that will exist at any particular time in the future. Due to the uncertainty of market conditions that may affect the future disposition of our properties, we cannot assure you that we will be able to sell our properties at a profit in the future. Accordingly, the extent to which you will receive cash distributions and realize potential appreciation on our real estate investments will be dependent upon fluctuating market conditions.

Discovery of previously undetected environmentally hazardous conditions may adversely affect our operating results.

Under various federal, state and local environmental laws, ordinances and regulations, a current or previous owner or operator of real property may be liable for the cost of removal or remediation of hazardous or toxic substances on such property. Such laws often impose liability whether or not the owner or operator knew of, or was responsible for, the presence of such hazardous or toxic substances. Environmental laws also may impose restrictions on the manner in which properties may be used or businesses may be operated, and these restrictions may require expenditures. Environmental laws provide for sanctions in the event of noncompliance and may be enforced by governmental agencies or, in certain circumstances, by private parties. We may be potentially liable for such costs in connection with the acquisition and ownership of our properties. The cost of defending against claims of liability, of compliance with environmental regulatory requirements or of remediating any contaminated property could materially adversely affect the business, assets or results of operations of the Wells REIT and, consequently, amounts available for distribution to you.

Financing Risks

If we fail to make our debt payments, we could lose our investment in a property.

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

We generally secure the loans we obtain to fund property acquisitions with first priority mortgages on some of our properties. If we are unable to make our debt payments as required, a lender could foreclose on the property or properties securing its debt. This could cause us to lose part or all of our investment which in turn could cause a reduction in the value of the shares and the dividends payable to our stockholders. (See Description of Real Estate Investments Real Estate Loans.)

Table of Contents

Lenders may require us to enter into restrictive covenants relating to our operations.

In connection with obtaining certain financing, a lender could impose restrictions on us that would affect our ability to incur additional debt and our distribution and operating policies. Loan documents we enter into may contain customary negative covenants which may limit our ability to further mortgage the property, to discontinue insurance coverage, replace Wells Capital as our advisor or impose other limitations.

If we enter into financing arrangements involving balloon payment obligations, it may adversely affect our ability to pay dividends.

Some of our financing arrangements may require us to make a lump-sum or balloon payment at maturity. We may finance more properties in this manner. Our ability to make a balloon payment at maturity is uncertain and may depend upon our ability to obtain additional financing or our ability to sell the property. At the time the balloon payment is due, we may or may not be able to refinance the balloon payment on terms as favorable as the original loan or sell the property at a price sufficient to make the balloon payment. A refinancing or sale under these circumstances could affect the rate of return to stockholders and the projected time of disposition of our assets. In addition, payments of principal and interest made to service our debts may leave us with insufficient cash to pay the distributions that we are required to pay to maintain our qualification as a REIT.

Section 1031 Exchange Program Risks

We may have increased exposure to liabilities from litigation as a result of our participation in the Section 1031 Exchange Program.

Wells Development Corporation, an affiliate of Wells Capital, our advisor, is forming a series of single member limited liability companies (each of which is referred to in this prospectus as Wells Exchange) for the purpose of facilitating the acquisition of real estate properties to be owned in co-tenancy arrangements with persons (1031 Participants) who are looking to invest proceeds from a sale of real estate to qualify for like-kind exchange treatment under Section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code (Section 1031 Exchange Program). There will be significant tax and securities disclosure risks associated with the private placement offerings of co-tenancy interests by Wells Exchange to 1031 Participants. For example, in the event that the Internal Revenue Service conducts an audit of the purchasers of co-tenancy interests and successfully challenges the qualification of the transaction as a like-kind exchange under Section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code, even though it is anticipated that this tax risk will be fully disclosed to investors, purchasers of co-tenancy interests may file a lawsuit against Wells Exchange and its sponsors. In such event, even though Wells OP is not acting as a sponsor of the offering, is not commonly controlled with Wells Exchange, and is not recommending that 1031 Participants buy co-tenancy interests from Wells Exchange, as a result of our participation in the Section 1031 Exchange Program, and since Wells OP will be receiving fees in connection with the Section 1031 Exchange Program, we may be named in or otherwise required to defend against lawsuits brought by 1031 Participants. Any amounts we are required to expend for any such litigation claims may reduce the amount of funds available for distribution to stockholders of the Wells REIT. In addition, disclosure of any such litigation may adversely affect our ability to raise additional capital in the future through the sale of stock. (See Investment Objectives and Criteria Section 1031 Exchange Program.)

Table of Contents

We will be subject to risks associated with co-tenancy arrangements that are not otherwise present in a real estate investment.

At the closing of each property Wells Exchange acquires pursuant to the Section 1031 Exchange Program, we anticipate that Wells OP will enter into a contractual arrangement providing that, in the event that Wells Exchange is unable to sell all of the co-tenancy interests in that particular property by the completion of its private placement offering, Wells OP will purchase, at Wells Exchange's cost, any co-tenancy interests remaining unsold. Accordingly, in the event that Wells Exchange is unable to sell all co-tenancy interests in one or more of its properties, Wells OP will be required to purchase the unsold co-tenancy interests in such property or properties and, thus, will be subject to the risks of ownership of properties in a co-tenancy arrangement with unrelated third parties. (See Investment Objectives and Criteria Section 1031 Exchange Program.)

Ownership of co-tenancy interests involves risks not otherwise present with an investment in real estate such as the following:

the risk that a co-tenant may at any time have economic or business interests or goals which are or which become inconsistent with our business interests or goals;

the risk that a co-tenant may be in a position to take action contrary to our instructions or requests or contrary to our policies or objectives; or

the possibility that a co-tenant might become insolvent or bankrupt, which may be an event of default under mortgage loan financing documents or allow the bankruptcy court to reject the tenants in common agreement or management agreement entered into by the co-tenants owning interests in the property.

Actions by a co-tenant may subject the property to liabilities in excess of those contemplated and may have the effect of reducing your returns.

In the event that our interests become adverse to those of the other co-tenants, we will not have the contractual right to purchase the co-tenancy interests from the other co-tenants. Even if we are given the opportunity to purchase such co-tenancy interests in the future, we cannot guarantee that we will have sufficient funds available at the time to purchase co-tenancy interests from the 1031 Participants.

We might want to sell our co-tenancy interests in a given property at a time when the other co-tenants in such property do not desire to sell their interests. Therefore, we may not be able to sell our interest in a property at the time we would like to sell. In addition, we anticipate that it will be much more difficult to find a willing buyer for our co-tenancy interests in a property than it would be to find a buyer for a property we owned outright.

Our participation in the Section 1031 Exchange Program may limit our ability to borrow funds in the future.

Institutional lenders may view our obligations under agreements to acquire unsold co-tenancy interests in properties as a contingent liability against our cash or other assets, which may limit our ability to borrow funds in the future. Further, such obligations may be viewed by our lenders in such a manner as to limit our ability to borrow funds based on regulatory restrictions on lenders limiting the amount of loans they can make to any one borrower. (See Investment Objectives and Criteria Section 1031 Exchange Program.)

Table of Contents

Federal Income Tax Risks

Failure to qualify as a REIT could adversely affect our operations and our ability to make distributions.

In order for us to qualify as a REIT, we must satisfy certain requirements set forth in the Internal Revenue Code and Treasury Regulations and various factual matters and circumstances which are not entirely within our control. We have and will continue to structure our activities in a manner designed to satisfy all of these requirements, however, if certain of our operations were to be recharacterized by the Internal Revenue Service, such recharacterization could jeopardize our ability to satisfy all of the requirements for qualification as a REIT. In addition, new legislation, regulations, administrative interpretations or court decisions could change the tax laws relating to our qualification as a REIT or the federal income tax consequences of our being a REIT.

If we fail to qualify as a REIT for any taxable year, we will be subject to federal income tax on our taxable income at corporate rates with no offsetting deductions for distributions made to stockholders. Further, in such event, we would generally be disqualified from treatment as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year in which we lose our REIT status. Accordingly, the loss of our REIT status would reduce our net earnings available for investment or distribution to stockholders because of the substantial tax liabilities that would be imposed on us. We might also be required to borrow funds or liquidate some investments in order to pay the applicable tax.

Certain fees paid to Wells OP may affect our REIT status.

In connection with the Section 1031 Exchange Program, Wells OP will enter into a number of contractual arrangements with Wells Exchange that will, in effect, guarantee the sale of the co-tenancy interests being offered by Wells Exchange. (See Investment Objectives and Criteria Section 1031 Exchange Program.) In consideration for entering into these agreements, Wells OP will be paid fees which could be characterized by the IRS as non-qualifying income for purposes of satisfying the income tests required for REIT qualification. (See Federal Income Tax Consequences Operational Requirements Gross Income Tests.) If this fee income were, in fact, treated as non-qualifying, and if the aggregate of such fee income and any other non-qualifying income in any taxable year ever exceeded 5.0% of our gross revenues for such year, we could lose our REIT status for that taxable year and the four ensuing taxable years. As set forth above, we will use all reasonable efforts to structure our activities in a manner intended to satisfy the requirements for our continued qualification as a REIT.

Recharacterization of the Section 1031 Exchange Program may result in taxation of income from a prohibited transaction.

In the event that the Internal Revenue Service were to recharacterize the Section 1031 Exchange Program such that Wells OP, rather than Wells Exchange, is treated as the bona fide owner, for tax purposes, of properties acquired and resold by Wells Exchange in connection with the Section 1031 Exchange Program, such characterization could result in the fees paid to Wells OP by Wells Exchange as being deemed income from a prohibited transaction, in which event all such fee income paid to us in connection with the Section 1031 Exchange Program would be subject to a 100% tax. (See Investment Objectives and Criteria Section 1031 Exchange Program.)

Table of Contents

Legislative or regulatory action could adversely affect investors.

In recent years, numerous legislative, judicial and administrative changes have been made in the provisions of the federal income tax laws applicable to investments similar to an investment in shares of the Wells REIT. Additional changes to tax laws are likely to continue to occur in the future, and we cannot assure you that any such changes will not adversely affect the taxation of our stockholders. Any such changes could have an adverse effect on an investment in shares or on the market value or the resale potential of our properties. You are urged to consult with your own tax advisor with respect to the impact of recent legislation on your investment in shares and the status of legislative, regulatory or administrative developments and proposals and their potential effect on an investment in shares.

Retirement Plan Risks

There are special considerations that apply to pension or profit sharing trusts or IRAs investing in shares.

If you are investing the assets of a pension, profit sharing, 401(k), Keogh or other qualified retirement plan or the assets of an IRA in the Wells REIT, you should satisfy yourself that:

your investment is consistent with your fiduciary obligations under ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code;

your investment is made in accordance with the documents and instruments governing your plan or IRA, including your plan's investment policy;

your investment satisfies the prudence and diversification requirements of Sections 404(a)(1)(B) and 404(a)(1)(C) of ERISA;

your investment will not impair the liquidity of the plan or IRA;

your investment will not produce unrelated business taxable income for the plan or IRA;

you will be able to value the assets of the plan annually in accordance with ERISA requirements; and

your investment will not constitute a prohibited transaction under Section 406 of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code.

For a more complete discussion of the foregoing issues and other risks associated with an investment in shares by retirement plans, please see the "ERISA Considerations" section of this prospectus on page 132.

SUITABILITY STANDARDS

The shares we are offering are suitable only as a long-term investment for persons of adequate financial means. Initially, we do not expect to have a public market for the shares, which means that you may have difficulty selling your shares. You should not buy these shares if you need to sell them immediately or will need to sell them quickly in the future. In consideration of these factors, we have established suitability standards for initial stockholders and subsequent transferees. These suitability standards require that a purchaser of shares have either:

a net worth of at least \$150,000; or

gross annual income of at least \$45,000 and a net worth of at least \$45,000.

Table of Contents

The minimum purchase is 100 shares (\$1,000), except in certain states as described below. You may not transfer fewer shares than the minimum purchase requirement. In addition, you may not transfer, fractionalize or subdivide your shares so as to retain less than the number of shares required for the minimum purchase. In order to satisfy the minimum purchase requirements for retirement plans, unless otherwise prohibited by state law, a husband and wife may jointly contribute funds from their separate IRAs, provided that each such contribution is made in increments of \$100. You should note that an investment in shares of the Wells REIT will not, in itself, create a retirement plan and that, in order to create a retirement plan, you must comply with all applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

The minimum purchase for Maine, New York and North Carolina residents is 250 shares (\$2,500), except for IRAs which must purchase a minimum of 100 shares (\$1,000). The minimum purchase for Minnesota residents is 250 shares (\$2,500), except for IRAs and other qualified retirement plans which must purchase a minimum of 200 shares (\$2,000).

Except in the states of Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska and Washington, if you have satisfied the minimum purchase requirements and have purchased units in other Wells programs or units or shares in other public real estate programs, you may purchase less than the minimum number of shares set forth above, but in no event less than 2.5 shares (\$25). After you have purchased the minimum investment, any additional purchase must be in increments of at least 2.5 shares (\$25), except for (1) purchases made by residents of Maine and Minnesota, who must still meet the minimum investment requirements set forth above, and (2) purchases of shares pursuant to the dividend reinvestment plan of the Wells REIT or reinvestment plans of other public real estate programs, which may be in lesser amounts.

Several states have established suitability standards different from those we have established. Shares will be sold only to investors in these states who meet the special suitability standards set forth below.

Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri and Tennessee Investors must have either (1) a net worth of at least \$225,000, or (2) gross annual income of at least \$60,000 and a net worth of at least \$60,000.

Maine Investors must have either (1) a net worth of at least \$200,000, or (2) gross annual income of at least \$50,000 and a net worth of at least \$50,000.

Iowa, Missouri, Ohio and Pennsylvania In addition to our suitability requirements, investors must have a net worth of at least 10 times their investment in the Wells REIT.

For purposes of determining suitability of an investor, net worth in all cases should be calculated excluding the value of an investor's home, furnishings and automobiles.

In the case of sales to fiduciary accounts, these suitability standards must be met by the fiduciary account, by the person who directly or indirectly supplied the funds for the purchase of the shares or by the beneficiary of the account. These suitability standards are intended to help ensure that, given the long-term nature of an investment in our shares, our investment objectives and the relative illiquidity of our shares, shares of the Wells REIT are an appropriate investment for those of you desiring to become stockholders. Each participating broker-dealer must make every reasonable effort to determine that the purchase of shares is a suitable and appropriate investment for each stockholder based on information provided by the stockholder in the Subscription Agreement or otherwise. Each participating broker-dealer is required to maintain records of the information used to determine that an investment in shares is suitable and appropriate for each stockholder for a period of six

years.

Table of Contents**ESTIMATED USE OF PROCEEDS**

The following tables set forth information about how we intend to use the proceeds raised in this offering assuming that we sell 165,000,000 shares and 330,000,000 shares, respectively, pursuant to this offering. Many of the figures set forth below represent management's best estimate since they cannot be precisely calculated at this time. We expect that at least 84.0% of the money you invest will be used to buy real estate, while the remaining up to 16.0% will be used for working capital and to pay expenses and fees, including the payment of fees to Wells Capital, our advisor, and Wells Investment Securities, our Dealer Manager.

	165,000,000 Shares		330,000,000 Shares	
	Amount(1)	Percent	Amount(2)	Percent
Gross Offering Proceeds	\$ 1,650,000,000	100%	\$ 3,300,000,000	100.0%
Less Public Offering Expenses:				
Selling Commissions and Dealer Manager Fee(3)	156,750,000	9.5%	313,500,000	9.5%
Organization and Offering Expenses(4)	49,500,000	3.0%	49,500,000	1.5%
Amount Available for Investment(5)	\$ 1,443,750,000	87.5%	\$ 2,937,000,000	89.0%
Acquisition and Development:				
Acquisition and Advisory Fees(6)	49,500,000	3.0%	99,000,000	3.0%
Acquisition Expenses(7)	8,250,000	0.5%	16,500,000	0.5%
Initial Working Capital Reserve(8)	(8)		(8)	
Amount Invested in Properties(5)(9)	\$ 1,386,000,000	84.0%	\$ 2,821,500,000	85.5%

(Footnotes to Estimated Use of Proceeds)

1. Assumes that an aggregate of \$1,650,000,000 will be raised in this offering for purposes of illustrating the percentage of estimated organization and offering expenses at two different sales levels. See Note 4 below.
2. Assumes the maximum offering is sold which includes 300,000,000 shares offered to the public at \$10 per share and 30,000,000 shares offered pursuant to our dividend reinvestment plan at \$10 per share. Excludes 6,600,000 shares to be issued upon exercise of the soliciting dealer warrants.
3. Includes *selling commissions* equal to 7.0% of aggregate gross offering proceeds which commissions may be reduced under certain circumstances and a *dealer manager fee* equal to 2.5% of aggregate gross offering proceeds, both of which are payable to the Dealer Manager, an affiliate of our advisor. The Dealer Manager, in its sole discretion, may reallow selling commissions of up to 7.0% of gross offering proceeds to other broker-dealers participating in this offering (Participating Dealers) attributable to the amount of shares sold by them. In addition, the Dealer Manager may reallow a portion of its dealer manager fee to Participating Dealers in the aggregate amount of up to 1.5% of gross offering proceeds to be paid to such Participating Dealers as marketing fees, or to reimburse representatives of such Participating Dealers the costs and expenses of attending our educational conferences and seminars. The amount of selling commissions may often be reduced under certain circumstances for volume discounts. See the *Plan of Distribution* section of this prospectus for a description of such provisions.
4. *Organization and offering expenses* consist of reimbursement of actual legal, accounting, printing and other accountable offering expenses, other than selling commissions and the dealer manager fee, including amounts to reimburse Wells Capital, our advisor, for all marketing related costs and expenses, including, but not limited to, salaries and direct expenses of our advisor's employees while engaged in registering and marketing the shares and other marketing and organization costs, technology costs and expenses attributable to the offering, costs and expenses of conducting our

Table of Contents

- educational conferences and seminars, payment or reimbursement of bona fide due diligence expenses, and costs and expenses we incur for attending retail seminars conducted by broker-dealers. Wells Capital and its affiliates will be responsible for the payment of organization and offering expenses, other than selling commissions and the dealer manager fee, to the extent they exceed 3.0% of aggregate gross offering proceeds from all of our offerings without recourse against or reimbursement by the Wells REIT. We currently estimate that approximately \$49,500,000 of organization and offering costs will be incurred if the maximum offering of 330,000,000 shares is sold. Notwithstanding the above, in no event shall organization and offering expenses, including selling commissions, the dealer manager fee and all other underwriting compensation, exceed 15% of gross offering proceeds.
5. Until required in connection with the acquisition and development of properties, substantially all of the net proceeds of the offering and, thereafter, the working capital reserves of the Wells REIT, may be invested in short-term, highly-liquid investments including government obligations, bank certificates of deposit, short-term debt obligations and interest-bearing accounts or other authorized investments as determined by our board of directors.
 6. *Acquisition and advisory fees* are defined generally as fees and commissions paid by any party to any person in connection with the purchase, development or construction of properties. We will pay Wells Capital, as our advisor, acquisition and advisory fees up to a maximum amount of 3.0% of gross offering proceeds in connection with the acquisition of the real estate properties. Acquisition and advisory fees do not include acquisition expenses.
 7. *Acquisition expenses* include legal fees and expenses, travel expenses, costs of appraisals, nonrefundable option payments on property not acquired, accounting fees and expenses, title insurance premiums and other closing costs and miscellaneous expenses relating to the selection, acquisition and development of real estate properties. We will pay Wells Capital, our advisor, acquisition expenses up to a maximum of 0.5% of gross offering proceeds as reimbursement for the payment of such expenses.
 8. Because the vast majority of leases for the properties acquired by the Wells REIT will provide for tenant reimbursement of operating expenses, we do not anticipate that a permanent reserve for maintenance and repairs of real estate properties will be established. However, to the extent that we have insufficient funds for such purposes, we may apply an amount of up to 1.0% of gross offering proceeds for maintenance and repairs of real estate properties. We also may, but are not required to, establish reserves from gross offering proceeds, out of cash flow generated by operating properties or out of nonliquidating net sale proceeds, defined generally to mean the net cash proceeds received by the Wells REIT from any sale or exchange of properties.
 9. Includes amounts anticipated to be invested in properties net of fees and expenses. We estimate that at least 84.0% of the proceeds received from the sale of shares will be used to acquire properties.

MANAGEMENT

General

We operate under the direction of our board of directors, the members of which are accountable to us and our stockholders as fiduciaries. The board is responsible for the management and control of our affairs. The board has retained Wells Capital to manage our day-to-day affairs and the acquisition and disposition of our investments, subject to the board's supervision. Our articles of incorporation were reviewed and ratified by our board of directors, including the independent directors, at their initial meeting. This ratification by our board of directors was required by the NASAA Guidelines.

Table of Contents

Our articles of incorporation and bylaws provide that the number of directors of the Wells REIT may be established by a majority of the entire board of directors but may not be fewer than three nor more than 15. We currently have a total of ten directors. Our articles of incorporation also provide that a majority of the directors must be independent directors. An independent director is a person who is not an officer or employee of the Wells REIT, Wells Capital or their affiliates and has not otherwise been affiliated with such entities for the previous two years. Of the ten current directors, eight of our directors are considered independent directors.

Proposed transactions are often discussed before being brought to a final board vote. During these discussions, independent directors often offer ideas for ways in which deals can be changed to make them acceptable and these suggestions are taken into consideration when structuring transactions. Each director will serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders or until his successor has been duly elected and qualified. Although the number of directors may be increased or decreased, a decrease shall not have the effect of shortening the term of any incumbent director.

Any director may resign at any time and may be removed with or without cause by the stockholders upon the affirmative vote of at least a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast at a meeting called for the purpose of the proposed removal. The notice of the meeting shall indicate that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the meeting is to determine if the director shall be removed.

Unless filled by a vote of the stockholders as permitted by Maryland Corporation Law, a vacancy created by an increase in the number of directors or the death, resignation, removal, adjudicated incompetence or other incapacity of a director shall be filled by a vote of a majority of the remaining directors and,

in the case of a director who is not an independent director (affiliated director), by a vote of a majority of the remaining affiliated directors, or

in the case of an independent director, by a vote of a majority of the remaining independent directors,

unless there are no remaining affiliated directors or independent directors, as the case may be. In such case a majority vote of the remaining directors shall be sufficient. If at any time there are no independent or affiliated directors in office, successor directors shall be elected by the stockholders. Each director will be bound by our articles of incorporation and bylaws.

Our directors are not required to devote all of their time to our business and are only required to devote the time to our affairs as their duties may require. Our directors will meet quarterly or more frequently if necessary in order to discharge their duties as directors. We do not expect that our directors will be required to devote a substantial portion of their time in discharging such duties. Consequently, in the exercise of their fiduciary responsibilities, our directors will be relying heavily on Wells Capital. Our board is empowered to fix the compensation of all officers that it selects and may pay compensation to directors for services rendered to us in any other capacity.

Our general investment and borrowing policies are set forth in this prospectus. Our directors may establish further written policies on investments and borrowings and shall monitor our administrative procedures, investment operations and performance to ensure that the policies are fulfilled and are in the best interest of the stockholders. We will follow the policies on investments and borrowings set forth in this prospectus unless and until they are modified by our directors.

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

Our board is responsible for reviewing our fees and expenses on at least an annual basis and with sufficient frequency to determine that the expenses incurred are in the best interest of the stockholders. In

Table of Contents

addition, a majority of the independent directors, and a majority of directors not otherwise interested in the transaction, must approve all transactions with Wells Capital or its affiliates. The independent directors will also be responsible for reviewing the performance of Wells Capital and Wells Management and determining that the compensation to be paid to Wells Capital and Wells Management is reasonable in relation to the nature and quality of services to be performed and that the provisions of the advisory agreement and the property management agreement are being carried out. Specifically, the independent directors will consider factors such as:

the amount of the fee paid to Wells Capital and Wells Management in relation to the size, composition and performance of our investments;

the success of Wells Capital in generating appropriate investment opportunities;

rates charged to other REITs and other investors by advisors performing similar services;

additional revenues realized by Wells Capital and Wells Management through their relationship with us, whether we pay them or they are paid by others with whom we do business;

the quality and extent of service and advice furnished by Wells Capital and Wells Management and the performance of our investment portfolio; and

the quality of our portfolio relative to the investments generated by Wells Capital and managed by Wells Management for their other clients.

Neither our directors nor their affiliates will vote or consent to the voting of shares they now own or hereafter acquire on matters submitted to the stockholders regarding either (1) the removal of Wells Capital, any director or any affiliate, or (2) any transaction between us and Wells Capital, any director or any affiliate.

Committees of the Board of Directors

Our entire board of directors considers all major decisions concerning our business, including all property acquisitions. However, our board has established an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee and various advisory committees so that important items within the purview of these committees can be addressed in more depth than may be possible at a full board meeting.

Audit Committee

Under our Audit Committee Charter, our Audit Committee's primary function is to assist the board of directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by reviewing the financial information to be provided to the stockholders and others, the system of internal controls which management has established, and the audit and financial reporting process. The members of our Audit Committee are Messrs. Bell, Carpenter, Carter, Keogler, Moss, Sessoms and Strickland.

Compensation Committee

Our board of directors has established a Compensation Committee to administer the 2000 Employee Stock Option Plan, as described below, which was approved by the stockholders at our annual stockholders meeting held June 28, 2000. The Compensation Committee is comprised of Messrs. Bell, Carpenter, Carter, Keogler, Moss, Sessoms and Strickland. The primary function of the Compensation Committee is to administer the granting of stock options to selected employees of Wells Capital and

Table of Contents

Wells Management based upon recommendations from Wells Capital, and to set the terms and conditions of such options in accordance with the 2000 Employee Stock Option Plan. To date, we have not issued any stock options under our 2000 Employee Stock Option Plan.

Advisory Committees

The board of directors has established various advisory committees in which certain members of the board sit on these advisory committees to assist Wells Capital and its affiliates in the following areas which have a direct impact on the operations of the Wells REIT: asset management; new business development; personnel supervision; and budgeting.

Executive Officers and Directors

We have provided below certain information about our executive officers and directors.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position(s)</u>	<u>Age</u>
Leo F. Wells, III	President and Director	58
Douglas P. Williams	Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Director	51
John L. Bell	Director	62
Michael R. Buchanan	Director	55
Richard W. Carpenter	Director	65
Bud Carter	Director	63
William H. Keogler, Jr.	Director	57
Donald S. Moss	Director	66
Walter W. Sessoms	Director	68
Neil H. Strickland	Director	66

Leo F. Wells, III is the President and a director of the Wells REIT and the President, Treasurer and sole director of Wells Capital, our advisor. He is also the sole stockholder and sole director of Wells Real Estate Funds, Inc., the parent corporation of Wells Capital. Mr. Wells is President of Wells & Associates, Inc., a real estate brokerage and investment company formed in 1976 and incorporated in 1978, for which he serves as principal broker. He is also the President, Treasurer and sole director of:

Wells Management Company, Inc., our Property Manager;

Wells Investment Securities, Inc., our Dealer Manager;

Wells Advisors, Inc., a company he organized in 1991 to act as a non-bank custodian for IRAs; and

Wells Development Corporation, a company he organized in 1997 to develop real properties. (See Conflicts of Interest.)

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

Mr. Wells was a real estate salesman and property manager from 1970 to 1973 for Roy D. Warren & Company, an Atlanta-based real estate company, and he was associated from 1973 to 1976 with Sax Gaskin Real Estate Company, during which time he became a Life Member of the Atlanta Board of Realtors Million Dollar Club. From 1980 to February 1985 he served as Vice President of Hill-Johnson, Inc., a Georgia corporation engaged in the construction business. Mr. Wells holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in economics from the University of Georgia. Mr. Wells is a member of the International Association for Financial Planning (IAFP) and a registered NASD principal.

Mr. Wells has over 30 years of experience in real estate sales, management and brokerage services. In addition to being the President and a director of the Wells REIT, he is currently a co-general

Table of Contents

partner in a total of 27 real estate limited partnerships formed for the purpose of acquiring, developing and operating office buildings and other commercial properties. As of June 30, 2002, these 27 real estate limited partnerships represented investments totaling approximately \$347,154,000 from approximately 28,000 investors.

Douglas P. Williams is the Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and a director of the Wells REIT. He is also a Senior Vice President of Wells Capital, our advisor, and is also a Vice President of:

Wells Investment Securities, Inc., our Dealer Manager;

Wells Real Estate Funds, Inc.; and

Wells Advisors, Inc. (See Conflicts of Interest.)

Mr. Williams previously served as Vice President, Controller of OneSource, Inc., a leading supplier of janitorial and landscape services, from 1996 to 1999 where he was responsible for corporate-wide accounting activities and financial analysis. Mr. Williams was employed by ECC International Inc. (ECC), a supplier to the paper industry and to the paint, rubber and plastic industries, from 1982 to 1995. While at ECC, Mr. Williams served in a number of key accounting positions, including: Corporate Accounting Manager, U.S. Operations; Division Controller, Americas Region; and Corporate Controller, America/Pacific Division. Prior to joining ECC and for one year after leaving ECC, Mr. Williams was employed by Lithonia Lighting, a manufacturer of lighting fixtures, as a Cost and General Accounting Manager and Director of Planning and Control. Mr. Williams started his professional career as an auditor for KPMG Peat Marwick LLP.

Mr. Williams is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants and is licensed with the NASD as a financial and operations principal. Mr. Williams received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College and a Masters of Business Administration degree from the Amos Tuck School of Graduate Business Administration at Dartmouth College.

John L. Bell was the owner and Chairman of Bell-Mann, Inc., the largest commercial flooring contractor in the Southeast from February 1971 to February 1996. Mr. Bell also served on the board of directors of Realty South Investors, a REIT traded on the American Stock Exchange, and was the founder and served as a director of both the Chattahoochee Bank and the Buckhead Bank. In 1997, Mr. Bell initiated and implemented a Dealer Acquisition Plan for Shaw Industries, Inc., a floor covering manufacturer and distributor, which plan included the acquisition of Bell-Mann.

Mr. Bell currently serves on the Board of Directors of Electronic Commerce Systems, Inc. and the Cullasaja Club of Highlands, North Carolina. Mr. Bell is also extensively involved in buying and selling real estate both individually and in partnership with others. Mr. Bell graduated from Florida State University majoring in accounting and marketing.

Michael R. Buchanan was employed by Bank of America, N.A. and its predecessor banks, NationsBank and C&S National Bank, from 1972 until his retirement in March 2002. Mr. Buchanan has over 30 years of real estate banking and financial experience and, while at Bank of America, he held several key positions including Managing Director of the Real Estate Banking Group from 1998 until his retirement where he managed approximately 1,100 associates in 90 offices. This group was responsible for providing real estate loans including construction, acquisition, development and bridge financing for the commercial and residential real estate industry, as well as providing structured financing for REITs.

Table of Contents

Mr. Buchanan is a graduate of the University of Kentucky where he earned a Bachelor of Economics degree and a Masters of Business Administration degree. He also attended Harvard University in the graduate program for management development.

Richard W. Carpenter served as General Vice President of Real Estate Finance of The Citizens and Southern National Bank from 1975 to 1979, during which time his duties included the establishment and supervision of the United Kingdom Pension Fund, U.K.-American Properties, Inc. which was established primarily for investment in commercial real estate within the United States.

Mr. Carpenter is a managing partner of Carpenter Properties, L.P., a real estate limited partnership. He is also President and director of Commonwealth Oil Refining Company, Inc., a position he has held since 1984.

Mr. Carpenter previously served as Vice Chairman of the board of directors of both First Liberty Financial Corp. and Liberty Savings Bank, F.S.B. and Chairman of the Audit Committee of First Liberty Financial Corp. He has been a member of The National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts and formerly served as President and Chairman of the Board of Southmark Properties, an Atlanta-based REIT which invested in commercial properties. Mr. Carpenter is a past Chairman of the American Bankers Association Housing and Real Estate Finance Division Executive Committee. Mr. Carpenter holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University, where he was named the outstanding alumnus of the School of Business in 1973.

Bud Carter was an award-winning broadcast news director and anchorman for several radio and television stations in the Midwest for over 20 years. From 1975 to 1980, Mr. Carter served as General Manager of WTAZ-FM, a radio station in Peoria, Illinois and served as editor and publisher of The Peoria Press, a weekly business and political journal in Peoria, Illinois. From 1981 until 1989, Mr. Carter was also an owner and General Manager of Transitions, Inc., a corporate outplacement company in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Carter currently serves as Senior Vice President for The Executive Committee, an international organization established to aid presidents and CEOs to share ideas on ways to improve the management and profitability of their respective companies. The Executive Committee operates in numerous large cities throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, France, Italy, Malaysia, Brazil, the United Kingdom and Japan. The Executive Committee has more than 7,000 presidents and CEOs who are members. In addition, Mr. Carter was the first Chairman of the organization recruited in Atlanta and still serves as Chairman of the first two groups formed in Atlanta, each comprised of 16 noncompeting CEOs and presidents. Mr. Carter serves on the board of directors of Creative Storage Systems, Inc., DiversiTech Corporation and Wavebase9. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri where he earned degrees in journalism and social psychology.

William H. Keogler, Jr. was employed by Brooke Bond Foods, Inc. as a Sales Manager from June 1965 to September 1968. From July 1968 to December 1974, Mr. Keogler was employed by Kidder Peabody & Company, Inc. and Dupont, Gloré, Forgan as a corporate bond salesman responsible for managing the industrial corporate bond desk and the utility bond area. From December 1974 to July 1982, Mr. Keogler was employed by Robinson-Humphrey, Inc. as the Director of Fixed Income Trading Departments responsible for all municipal bond trading and municipal research, corporate and government bond trading, unit trusts and SBA/FHA loans, as well as the oversight of the publishing of the Robinson-Humphrey Southeast Unit Trust, a quarterly newsletter. Mr. Keogler was elected to the Board of Directors of Robinson-Humphrey, Inc. in 1982. From July 1982 to October 1984, Mr. Keogler was Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Chairman of the Executive Investment Committee and member of the board of directors and Chairman of the MFA Advisory Board for the Financial Service

Table of Contents

Corporation. He was responsible for the creation of a full service trading department specializing in general securities with emphasis on municipal bonds and municipal trusts. Under his leadership, Financial Service Corporation grew to over 1,000 registered representatives and over 650 branch offices. In March 1985, Mr. Keogler founded Keogler, Morgan & Company, Inc., a full service brokerage firm, and Keogler Investment Advisory, Inc., in which he served as Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer. In January 1997, both companies were sold to SunAmerica, Inc., a publicly traded New York Stock Exchange company. Mr. Keogler continued to serve as President and Chief Executive Officer of these companies until his retirement in January 1998.

Mr. Keogler serves on the Board of Trustees of Senior Citizens Services of Atlanta. He graduated from Adelphi University in New York where he earned a degree in psychology.

Donald S. Moss was employed by Avon Products, Inc. from 1957 until his retirement in 1986. While at Avon, Mr. Moss served in a number of key positions, including Vice President and Controller from 1973 to 1976, Group Vice President of Operations-Worldwide from 1976 to 1979, Group Vice President of Sales-Worldwide from 1979 to 1980, Senior Vice President-International from 1980 to 1983 and Group Vice President-Human Resources and Administration from 1983 until his retirement in 1986. Mr. Moss was also a member of the board of directors of Avon Canada, Avon Japan, Avon Thailand, and Avon Malaysia from 1980-1983.

Mr. Moss is currently a director of The Atlanta Athletic Club. He formerly was the National Treasurer and a director of the Girls Clubs of America from 1973 to 1976. Mr. Moss graduated from the University of Illinois where he received a degree in business.

Walter W. Sessoms was employed by Southern Bell and its successor company, BellSouth, from 1956 until his retirement in June 1997. While at BellSouth, Mr. Sessoms served in a number of key positions, including Vice President-Residence for the State of Georgia from June 1979 to July 1981, Vice President-Transitional Planning Officer from July 1981 to February 1982, Vice President-Georgia from February 1982 to June 1989, Senior Vice President-Regulatory and External Affairs from June 1989 to November 1991, and Group President-Services from December 1991 until his retirement on June 30, 1997.

Mr. Sessoms currently serves as a director of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce for which he is a past Chairman of the Board, the Atlanta Civic Enterprises and the Salvation Army's Board of Visitors of the Southeast Region. Mr. Sessoms is also a past executive advisory council member for the University of Georgia College of Business Administration and past member of the executive committee of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Sessoms is a graduate of Wofford College where he earned a degree in economics and business administration, and is currently a member of the Wofford College Board of Trustees. He is a member of the Governor's Education Reform Commission. In addition, Mr. Sessoms is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Southern Center for International Studies and is currently President of the Atlanta Rotary Club.

Neil H. Strickland was employed by Loyalty Group Insurance (which subsequently merged with America Fore Loyalty Group and is now known as The Continental Group) as an automobile insurance underwriter. From 1957 to 1961, Mr. Strickland served as Assistant Supervisor of the Casualty Large Lines Retrospective Rating Department. From 1961 to 1964, Mr. Strickland served as Branch Manager of Wolverine Insurance Company, a full service property and casualty service company, where he had full responsibility for underwriting of insurance and office administration in the State of Georgia. In 1964, Mr. Strickland and a non-active partner started Superior Insurance Service, Inc., a property and casualty wholesale general insurance agency. Mr. Strickland served as President and was responsible for the underwriting and all other operations of the agency. In 1967, Mr. Strickland sold his interest in

Table of Contents

Superior Insurance Service, Inc. and started Strickland General Agency, Inc., a property and casualty general insurance agency concentrating on commercial customers. Mr. Strickland is currently the Senior Operation Executive of Strickland General Agency, Inc. and devotes most of his time to long-term planning, policy development and senior administration.

Mr. Strickland is a past President of the Norcross Kiwanis Club and served as both Vice President and President of the Georgia Surplus Lines Association. He also served as President and a director of the National Association of Professional Surplus Lines Offices. Mr. Strickland currently serves as a director of First Capital Bank, a community bank located in the State of Georgia. Mr. Strickland attended Georgia State University where he majored in business administration. He received his L.L.B. degree from Atlanta Law School.

Compensation of Directors

We pay each of our independent directors \$3,000 per regularly scheduled quarterly board meeting attended, \$1,000 per regularly scheduled advisory committee meeting attended and \$250 per special board meeting attended whether held in person or by telephone conference. In addition, we have reserved 100,000 shares of common stock for future issuance upon the exercise of stock options granted to the independent directors pursuant to our Independent Director Stock Option Plan and 500,000 shares for future issuance upon the exercise of warrants to be granted to the independent directors pursuant to our Independent Director Warrant Plan. All directors receive reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with attendance at meetings of the board of directors. If a director also is an officer of the Wells REIT, we do not pay separate compensation for services rendered as a director.

Independent Director Stock Option Plan

Our Independent Director Stock Option Plan (Director Option Plan) was approved by our stockholders at the annual stockholders meeting held June 16, 1999. We issued non-qualified stock options to purchase 2,500 shares (Initial Options) to each independent director pursuant to our Director Option Plan. In addition, we issued options to purchase 1,000 shares to each independent director then in office in connection with the 2000, 2001 and 2002 annual meeting of stockholders and will continue to issue options to purchase 1,000 shares (Subsequent Options) to each independent director then in office on the date of each annual stockholders meeting. The Initial Options and the Subsequent Options are collectively referred to as the Director Options. Director Options may not be granted at any time when the grant, along with grants to other independent directors, would exceed 10% of our issued and outstanding shares. As of the date of this prospectus, each independent director (except for Michael R. Buchanan, who was recently appointed as an independent director and will be awarded 2,500 Initial Options) had been granted options to purchase a total of 5,500 shares under the Director Option Plan, of which 3,000 of those options were exercisable.

The exercise price for the Initial Options is \$12.00 per share. The exercise price for the Subsequent Options is the greater of (1) \$12.00 per share or (2) the fair market value of the shares on the date they are granted. Fair market value is defined generally to mean:

the average closing price for the five consecutive trading days ending on such date if the shares are traded on a national exchange;

the average of the high bid and low asked prices if the shares are quoted on NASDAQ;

the average of the last 10 sales made pursuant to a public offering if there is a current public offering and no market maker for the shares;

Table of Contents

the average of the last 10 purchases (or fewer if less than 10 purchases) under our share redemption program if there is no current public offering; or

the price per share under the dividend reinvestment plan if there are no purchases under the share redemption program.

One-fifth of the Initial Options were exercisable beginning on the date we granted them, one-fifth of the Initial Options became exercisable beginning in July 2000, one-fifth of the Initial Options became exercisable beginning in July 2001, one fifth of the Initial Options became exercisable beginning in July 2002 and the remaining one-fifth of the Initial Options will become exercisable beginning in July 2003. The Subsequent Options granted in connection with the 2000 annual stockholders' meeting became exercisable in June 2002. The remaining Subsequent Options granted under the Director Option Plan will become exercisable on the second anniversary of the date we grant them.

A total of 100,000 shares have been authorized and reserved for issuance under the Director Option Plan. If the number of outstanding shares is changed into a different number or kind of shares or securities through a reorganization or merger in which the Wells REIT is the surviving entity, or through a combination, recapitalization or otherwise, an appropriate adjustment will be made in the number and kind of shares that may be issued pursuant to exercise of the Director Options. A corresponding adjustment to the exercise price of the Director Options granted prior to any change will also be made. Any such adjustment, however, will not change the total payment, if any, applicable to the portion of the Director Options not exercised, but will change only the exercise price for each share.

Options granted under the Director Option Plan shall lapse on the first to occur of (1) the tenth anniversary of the date we grant them, (2) the removal for cause of the independent director as a member of the board of directors, or (3) three months following the date the independent director ceases to be a director for any reason other than death or disability, and may be exercised by payment of cash or through the delivery of common stock. Director Options granted under the Director Option Plan are generally exercisable in the case of death or disability for a period of one year after death or the disabling event. No Director Option issued may be exercised if such exercise would jeopardize our status as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code.

The independent directors may not sell, pledge, assign or transfer their options other than by will or the laws of descent or distribution.

Upon the dissolution or liquidation of the Wells REIT, upon our reorganization, merger or consolidation with one or more corporations as a result of which we are not the surviving corporation or upon sale of all or substantially all of our properties, the Director Option Plan will terminate, and any outstanding Director Options will terminate and be forfeited. The board of directors may provide in writing in connection with any such transaction for any or all of the following alternatives:

for the assumption by the successor corporation of the Director Options granted or the replacement of the Director Options with options covering the stock of the successor corporation, or a parent or subsidiary of such corporation, with appropriate adjustments as to the number and kind of shares and exercise prices;

for the continuance of the Director Option Plan and the Director Options by such successor corporation under the original terms; or

for the payment in cash or shares of common stock in lieu of and in complete satisfaction of such options.

Table of Contents

Independent Director Warrant Plan

Our Independent Director Warrant Plan (Director Warrant Plan) was approved by our stockholders at the annual stockholders meeting held June 28, 2000. Our Director Warrant Plan provides for the issuance of warrants to purchase shares of our common stock (Warrants) to independent directors based on the number of shares of common stock that they purchase. The purpose of the Director Warrant Plan is to encourage our independent directors to purchase shares of our common stock. Beginning on the effective date of the Director Warrant Plan and continuing until the earlier to occur of (1) the termination of the Director Warrant Plan by action of the board of directors or otherwise, or (2) 5:00 p.m. EST on the date of listing of our shares on a national securities exchange, each independent director will receive one Warrant for every 25 shares of common stock he purchases. The exercise price of the Warrants will be \$12.00 per share.

A total of 500,000 Warrants have been authorized and reserved for issuance under the Director Warrant Plan, each of which will be redeemable for one share of our common stock. Upon our dissolution or liquidation, or upon a reorganization, merger or consolidation, where we are not the surviving corporation, or upon our sale of all or substantially all of our properties, the Director Warrant Plan shall terminate, and any outstanding Warrants shall terminate and be forfeited; provided, however, that holders of Warrants may exercise any Warrants that are otherwise exercisable immediately prior to the effective date of the dissolution, liquidation, consolidation or merger. Notwithstanding the above, our board of directors may provide in writing in connection with any such transaction for any or all of the following alternatives: (1) for the assumption by the successor corporation of the Warrants theretofore granted or the substitution by such corporation for such Warrants of awards covering the stock of the successor corporation, or a parent or subsidiary thereof, with appropriate adjustments as to the number and kind of shares and prices; (2) for the continuance of the Director Warrant Plan by such successor corporation in which event the Director Warrant Plan and the Warrants shall continue in the manner and under the terms so provided; or (3) for the payment in cash or shares in lieu of and in complete satisfaction of such Warrants.

No Warrant may be sold, pledged, assigned or transferred by an independent director in any manner other than by will or the laws of descent or distribution. All Warrants exercised during the independent director's lifetime shall be exercised only by the independent director or his legal representative. Any transfer contrary to the Director Warrant Plan will nullify and render void the Warrant. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Director Warrant Plan, Warrants granted under the Director Warrant Plan shall continue to be exercisable in the case of death or disability of the independent director for a period of one year after the death or disabling event, provided that the death or disabling event occurs while the person is an independent director. No Warrant issued may be exercised if such exercise would jeopardize our status as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code.

Employee Stock Option Plan

Our 2000 Employee Stock Option Plan (Employee Option Plan) was approved by our stockholders at the annual stockholders meeting held June 28, 2000. Our Employee Option Plan is designed to enable Wells Capital and Wells Management to obtain or retain the services of employees considered essential to our long range success and the success of Wells Capital and Wells Management by offering such employees an opportunity to participate in the growth of the Wells REIT through ownership of our common stock.

Our Employee Option Plan provides for the formation of a Compensation Committee consisting of two or more of our independent directors. (See Committees of the Board of Directors.) The Compensation Committee shall conduct the general administration of the Employee Option Plan. The

Table of Contents

Compensation Committee is authorized to grant non-qualified stock options (Employee Options) to selected employees of Wells Capital and Wells Management based upon the recommendation of Wells Capital and subject to the absolute discretion of the Compensation Committee and applicable limitations of the Employee Option Plan. The exercise price for the Employee Options shall be the greater of (1) \$11.00 per share, or (2) the fair market value of the shares on the date the option is granted. A total of 750,000 shares have been authorized and reserved for issuance under our Employee Option Plan. To date, we have not issued any stock options under our Employee Option Plan.

The Compensation Committee shall set the term of the Employee Options in its discretion, although no Employee Option shall have a term greater than five years from the later of (1) the date our shares become listed on a national securities exchange, or (2) the date the Employee Option is granted. The employee receiving Employee Options shall agree to remain in employment with his employer for a period of one year after the Employee Option is granted. The Compensation Committee shall set the period during which the right to exercise an option vests in the holder of the option. No Employee Option issued may be exercised, however, if such exercise would jeopardize our status as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, no option may be sold, pledged, assigned or transferred by an employee in any manner other than by will or the laws of descent or distribution.

In the event that the Compensation Committee determines that any dividend or other distribution, recapitalization, stock split, reorganization, merger, liquidation, dissolution, or sale, transfer, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all of our assets, or other similar corporate transaction or event, affects the shares such that an adjustment is determined by the Compensation Committee to be appropriate in order to prevent dilution or enlargement of the benefits or potential benefits intended to be made available under the Employee Option Plan or with respect to an Employee Option, then the Compensation Committee shall, in such manner as it may deem equitable, adjust the number and kind of shares or the exercise price with respect to any option.

Limited Liability and Indemnification of Directors, Officers, Employees and Other Agents

Our organizational documents limit the personal liability of our stockholders, directors and officers for monetary damages to the fullest extent permitted under current Maryland Corporation Law. We also maintain a directors and officers liability insurance policy. Maryland Corporation Law allows directors and officers to be indemnified against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and expenses actually incurred in a proceeding unless the following can be established:

an act or omission of the director or officer was material to the cause of action adjudicated in the proceeding, and was committed in bad faith or was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;

the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or

with respect to any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe his act or omission was unlawful.

Any indemnification or any agreement to hold harmless is recoverable only out of our assets and not from our stockholders. Indemnification could reduce the legal remedies available to us and our stockholders against the indemnified individuals, however.

This provision does not reduce the exposure of our directors and officers to liability under federal or state securities laws, nor does it limit our stockholder's ability to obtain injunctive relief or other

Table of Contents

equitable remedies for a violation of a director's or an officer's duties to us or our stockholders, although the equitable remedies may not be an effective remedy in some circumstances.

In spite of the above provisions of Maryland Corporation Law, our articles of incorporation provide that our directors, Wells Capital and its affiliates will be indemnified by us for losses arising from our operation only if all of the following conditions are met:

our directors, Wells Capital or its affiliates have determined, in good faith, that the course of conduct which caused the loss or liability was in our best interests;

our directors, Wells Capital or its affiliates were acting on our behalf or performing services for us;

in the case of affiliated directors, Wells Capital or its affiliates, the liability or loss was not the result of negligence or misconduct by the party seeking indemnification;

in the case of independent directors, the liability or loss was not the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct by the party seeking indemnification; and

the indemnification or agreement to hold harmless is recoverable only out of our net assets and not from the stockholders.

We have agreed to indemnify and hold harmless Wells Capital and its affiliates performing services for us from specific claims and liabilities arising out of the performance of its obligations under the advisory agreement. As a result, we and our stockholders may be entitled to a more limited right of action than they would otherwise have if these indemnification rights were not included in the advisory agreement.

The general effect to investors of any arrangement under which any of our controlling persons, directors or officers are insured or indemnified against liability is a potential reduction in distributions resulting from our payment of premiums associated with insurance. In addition, indemnification could reduce the legal remedies available to the Wells REIT and our stockholders against the officers and directors.

The Securities and Exchange Commission takes the position that indemnification against liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 is against public policy and unenforceable. Indemnification of our directors, officers, Wells Capital or its affiliates will not be allowed for liabilities arising from or out of a violation of state or federal securities laws, unless one or more of the following conditions are met:

there has been a successful adjudication on the merits of each count involving alleged securities law violations;

such claims have been dismissed with prejudice on the merits by a court of competent jurisdiction; or

a court of competent jurisdiction approves a settlement of the claims against the indemnitee and finds that indemnification of the settlement and the related costs should be made, and the court considering the request for indemnification has been advised of the position of the Securities and Exchange Commission and of the published position of any state securities regulatory authority in which the securities were offered as to indemnification for violations of securities laws.

Table of Contents

Indemnification will be allowed for settlements and related expenses of lawsuits alleging securities laws violations and for expenses incurred in successfully defending any lawsuits, provided that a court either:

approves the settlement and finds that indemnification of the settlement and related costs should be made; or

dismisses with prejudice or there is a successful adjudication on the merits of each count involving alleged securities law violations as to the particular indemnitee and a court approves the indemnification.

The Advisor

The advisor of the Wells REIT is Wells Capital. Wells Capital has contractual responsibilities to the Wells REIT and its stockholders pursuant to the advisory agreement. Some of our officers and directors are also officers and directors of Wells Capital. (See Conflicts of Interest.)

The directors and executive officers of Wells Capital are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Positions</u>
Leo F. Wells, III	58	President, Treasurer and sole director
Douglas P. Williams	51	Senior Vice President and Assistant Secretary
Stephen G. Franklin	54	Senior Vice President
Kim R. Comer	48	Vice President
Claire C. Janssen	39	Vice President
David H. Steinwedell	42	Vice President

The backgrounds of Messrs. Wells and Williams are described in the Management Executive Officers and Directors section of this prospectus. Below is a brief description of the other executive officers of Wells Capital.

Stephen G. Franklin, Ph.D. is a Senior Vice President of Wells Capital. Mr. Franklin is responsible for marketing, sales and coordination of broker-dealer relations. Mr. Franklin also serves as Vice President of Wells Real Estate Funds, Inc. Prior to joining Wells Capital in 1999, Mr. Franklin served as President of Global Access Learning, an international executive education and management development firm. From 1997 to 1999, Mr. Franklin served as President, Chief Academic Officer and Director of EduTrek International, a publicly traded provider of international post-secondary education that owns the American InterContinental University, with campuses in Atlanta, Ft. Lauderdale, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., London and Dubai. While at EduTrek, he was instrumental in developing the Masters and Bachelors of Information Technology, International MBA and Adult Evening BBA programs. Prior to joining EduTrek, Mr. Franklin was Associate Dean of the Goizueta Business School at Emory University and a former tenured Associate Professor of Business Administration. He served on the founding Executive MBA faculty, and has taught graduate, undergraduate and executive courses in management and organizational behavior, human resources management and entrepreneurship. He is also co-founder and Director of the Center for Healthcare Leadership in the Emory University School of Medicine. Mr. Franklin was a frequent guest lecturer at universities throughout North America, Europe and South Africa.

In 1984, Mr. Franklin took a sabbatical from Emory University and became Executive Vice President and a principal stockholder of Financial Service Corporation (FSC), an independent financial planning broker-dealer. Mr. Franklin and the other stockholders of FSC later sold their

interests in FSC to Mutual of New York Life Insurance Company.

Table of Contents

Kim R. Comer is a Vice President of Wells Capital. He is primarily responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring initiatives to further the strategic objectives of Wells Capital. He rejoined Wells Capital as National Vice President of Marketing in April 1997 after working for Wells Capital in similar capacities from January 1992 through September 1995. In prior positions with Wells Capital, he served as both Vice President and Director of Customer Care Services and Vice President of Marketing for the southeast and northeast regions. Mr. Comer has over 10 years experience in the securities industry and is a registered representative and financial principal with the NASD. Additionally, he has substantial financial experience including experience as controller and chief financial officer of two regional broker-dealers. In 1976, Mr. Comer graduated with honors from Georgia State University with a BBA degree in accounting.

Claire C. Janssen is a Vice President of Wells Capital. She is primarily responsible for managing the corporate, real estate, investment and investor accounting areas of the company. Ms. Janssen also serves as a Vice President of Wells Management Company, Inc., our Property Manager. Prior to joining Wells Capital in 2001, Ms. Janssen served as a Vice President of Lend Lease Real Estate (formerly, Equitable Real Estate). From 1990 to 2000, she held various management positions, including Vice President of Institutional Accounting, Vice President of Business/Credit Analysis and Director of Tax/Corporate Accounting. From 1985 to 1990, Ms. Janssen served in management positions for Beers and Cutler, a Washington, D.C. based accounting firm, where she provided both audit and tax services for clients.

Ms. Janssen received a B.S. in business administration with a major in accounting from George Mason University. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Georgia Society of Certified Public Accountants and National Association of Real Estate Companies.

David H. Steinwedell is a Vice President of Wells Capital. He is primarily responsible for the acquisition of real estate properties. Prior to joining Wells Capital in 2001, Mr. Steinwedell served as a principal in Steinwedell and Associates, a capital markets advisory firm specializing in transactions and strategic planning for commercial real estate firms. His background also includes experience as the Executive Vice President of Investment Banking at Jones Lang LaSalle and as Managing Director for Real Estate Investments at Aetna Life and Casualty. He graduated from Hamilton College with a B.S. in Economics. Mr. Steinwedell is a licensed real estate broker in Georgia and is a member of the Urban Land Institute and NAIOP.

Wells Capital employs personnel, in addition to the directors and executive officers listed above, who have extensive experience in selecting and managing commercial properties similar to the properties sought to be acquired by the Wells REIT.

The Advisory Agreement

Many of the services to be performed by Wells Capital in managing our day-to-day activities are summarized below. This summary is provided to illustrate the material functions which Wells Capital will perform for us as our advisor, and it is not intended to include all of the services which may be provided to us by Wells Capital or by third parties. Under the terms of the advisory agreement, Wells Capital undertakes to use its best efforts to present to us investment opportunities consistent with our investment policies and objectives as adopted by our board of directors. In its performance of this undertaking, Wells Capital, either directly or indirectly by engaging an affiliate, shall, subject to the authority of the board:

Table of Contents

find, present and recommend to us real estate investment opportunities consistent with our investment policies and objectives;

structure the terms and conditions of transactions pursuant to which acquisitions of properties will be made;

acquire properties on our behalf in compliance with our investment objectives and policies;

arrange for financing and refinancing of properties; and

enter into leases and service contracts for the properties acquired.

The term of the current advisory agreement ends on January 30, 2003 and may be renewed for an unlimited number of successive one-year periods. Additionally, the advisory agreement may be terminated:

immediately by us for cause or upon the bankruptcy of Wells Capital or a material breach of the advisory agreement by Wells Capital;

without cause by a majority of the independent directors of the Wells REIT or a majority of the directors of Wells Capital upon 60 days written notice; or

immediately with good reason by Wells Capital.

Good reason is defined in the advisory agreement to mean either:

any failure by us to obtain a satisfactory agreement from our successor to assume and agree to perform our obligations under the advisory agreement; or

any material breach of the advisory agreement of any nature whatsoever by us.

Cause is defined in the advisory agreement to mean fraud, criminal conduct, willful misconduct or willful or negligent breach of fiduciary duty by Wells Capital or a breach of the advisory agreement by Wells Capital.

Wells Capital and its affiliates expect to engage in other business ventures and, as a result, their resources will not be dedicated exclusively to our business. However, pursuant to the advisory agreement, Wells Capital must devote sufficient resources to the administration of the Wells REIT to discharge its obligations. Wells Capital may assign the advisory agreement to an affiliate upon approval of a majority of the independent directors. We may assign or transfer the advisory agreement to a successor entity.

Wells Capital may not make any acquisition of property or financing of such acquisition on our behalf without the prior approval of a majority of our board of directors. The actual terms and conditions of transactions involving investments in properties shall be determined in the sole discretion of Wells Capital, subject at all times to such board approval.

We will reimburse Wells Capital for all of the costs it incurs in connection with the services it provides to us, including, but not limited to:

organization and offering expenses in an amount up to 3.0% of gross offering proceeds, which include actual legal, accounting, printing and expenses attributable to preparing the SEC registration statement, qualification of the shares for sale in the states and filing fees incurred by Wells Capital, as well as reimbursements for marketing, salaries and

Table of Contents

direct expenses of its employees while engaged in registering and marketing the shares and other marketing and organization costs, other than selling commissions and the dealer manager fee;

the annual cost of goods and materials used by us and obtained from entities not affiliated with Wells Capital, including brokerage fees paid in connection with the purchase and sale of securities;

administrative services including personnel costs, provided, however, that no reimbursement shall be made for costs of personnel to the extent that personnel are used in transactions for which Wells Capital receives a separate fee; and

acquisition expenses, which are defined to include expenses related to the selection and acquisition of properties.

Wells Capital must reimburse us at least annually for amounts paid to Wells Capital in any year to the extent that such payments cause our operating expenses to exceed the greater of (1) 2% of our average invested assets, which consists of the average book value of our real estate properties, both equity interests in and loans secured by real estate, before reserves for depreciation or bad debts or other similar non-cash reserves, or (2) 25% of our net income, which is defined as our total revenues less total operating expenses for any given period. Operating expenses includes all expenses paid or incurred by the Wells REIT as determined by generally accepted accounting principles, such as (1) real estate operating costs, net of reimbursements, (2) management and leasing fees, (3) general and administrative expenses, and (4) legal and accounting expenses, but excludes (A) expenses of raising capital such as organizational and offering expenses, (B) interest payments, (C) taxes, (D) non-cash expenditures such as depreciation, amortization and bad debt reserves, and (E) amounts payable out of capital contributions which are not treated as operating expenses under generally accepted accounting principles such as the acquisition and advisory fees payable to Wells Capital. To the extent that operating expenses payable or reimbursable by us exceed this limit and the independent directors determine that the excess expenses were justified based on unusual and nonrecurring factors which they deem sufficient, Wells Capital may be reimbursed in future years for the full amount of the excess expenses, or any portion thereof, but only to the extent the reimbursement would not cause our operating expenses to exceed the limitation in any year. Within 60 days after the end of any of our fiscal quarters for which total operating expenses for the 12 months then ended exceed the limitation, there shall be sent to the stockholders a written disclosure, together with an explanation of the factors the independent directors considered in arriving at the conclusion that the excess expenses were justified.

Wells Capital and its affiliates will be paid fees in connection with services provided to us. (See Management Compensation.) In the event the advisory agreement is terminated, Wells Capital will be paid all accrued and unpaid fees and expense reimbursements, and any subordinated acquisition fees earned prior to the termination. We will not reimburse Wells Capital or its affiliates for services for which Wells Capital or its affiliates are entitled to compensation in the form of a separate fee.

Shareholdings

Wells Capital currently owns 20,000 limited partnership units of Wells OP, our operating partnership, for which it contributed \$200,000 and which constitutes 100% of the limited partner units outstanding at this time. Wells Capital may not sell any of these units during the period it serves as our advisor. Any resale of shares that Wells Capital or its affiliates may acquire in the future will be subject to the provisions of Rule 144 promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, which rule limits the number of shares that may be sold at any one time and the manner of such resale. Although Wells Capital and its affiliates are not prohibited from acquiring shares of the Wells REIT, Wells Capital currently has no

Table of Contents

options or warrants to acquire any shares and has no current plans to acquire shares. Wells Capital has agreed to abstain from voting any shares it acquires in any vote for the election of directors or any vote regarding the approval or termination of any contract with Wells Capital or any of its affiliates.

Affiliated Companies*Property Manager*

Our properties will be managed and leased initially by Wells Management Company, Inc. (Wells Management), our Property Manager. Wells Management is a wholly owned subsidiary of Wells Real Estate Funds, Inc., and Mr. Wells is the sole director of Wells Management. (See Conflicts of Interest.) The principal officers of Wells Management are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Positions</u>
Leo F. Wells, III	58	President and Treasurer
M. Scott Meadows	38	Senior Vice President and Secretary
John G. Oliver	53	Vice President
Michael L. Watson	59	Vice President

The background of Mr. Wells is described in the Management Executive Officers and Directors section of this prospectus. Below is a brief description of the other executive officers of Wells Management.

M. Scott Meadows is a Senior Vice President and Secretary of Wells Management. He is primarily responsible for the acquisition, operation, management and disposition of real estate investments. Prior to joining Wells Management in 1996, Mr. Meadows served as Senior Property Manager for The Griffin Company, a full-service commercial real estate firm in Atlanta, where he was responsible for managing a 500,000 square foot office and retail portfolio. Mr. Meadows previously managed real estate as a Property Manager for Sea Pines Plantation Company. He graduated from University of Georgia with a B.B.A. in management. Mr. Meadows is a Georgia real estate broker and holds a Real Property Administrator (RPA) designation from the Building Owners and Managers Institute International and a Certified Property Manager (CPM) designation from the Institute of Real Estate Management.

John G. Oliver is a Vice President of Wells Management. He is primarily responsible for operation and management of real estate properties. Prior to joining Wells Management in July 2000, Mr. Oliver served as Vice President with C.B. Richard Ellis where he was responsible for the management of properties occupied by Delta Airlines. Mr. Oliver previously was the Vice President of Property Management for Grubb and Ellis for their southeast region and served on their Executive Property Management Council. He graduated from Georgia State University with a B.S. in real estate. Mr. Oliver is a past President of the Atlanta chapter of BOMA (Building Owners and Managers Association) and holds a Certified Property Manager (CPM) designation from the Institute of Real Estate Management.

Michael L. Watson is a Vice President of Wells Management. He is primarily responsible for performing due diligence investigations on our properties and overseeing construction and tenant improvement projects including design, engineering, and progress-monitoring functions. Prior to joining Wells Management in 1995, Mr. Watson was Senior Project Manager with Abrams Construction in Atlanta from 1982 to 1995. His

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

primary responsibilities included supervising a variety of projects consisting of high-rise office buildings, military bases, state projects and neighborhood shopping centers. He graduated from the University of Miami with a B.S. in civil engineering.

Table of Contents

Wells Management is engaged in the business of real estate management. It was organized and commenced active operations in 1983 to lease and manage real estate projects that Wells Capital and its affiliates operate or in which they own an interest. As of June 30, 2002, Wells Management was managing in excess of 8,800,000 square feet of office and industrial buildings and shopping centers. We will pay Wells Management property management and leasing fees not exceeding the lesser of: (A) 4.5% of gross revenues, or (B) 0.6% of the net asset value of the properties (excluding vacant properties) owned by the Wells REIT, calculated on an annual basis. For purposes of this calculation, net asset value shall be defined as the excess of (1) the aggregate of the fair market value of all properties owned by the Wells REIT (excluding vacant properties), over (2) the aggregate outstanding debt of the Wells REIT (excluding debts having maturities of one year or less). In addition, we may pay Wells Management a separate fee for the one-time initial rent-up or leasing-up of newly constructed properties in an amount not to exceed the fee customarily charged in arm's length transactions by others rendering similar services in the same geographic area for similar properties as determined by a survey of brokers and agents in such area (customarily equal to the first month's rent). Wells Management will also retain third-party property managers or subcontract manager services to third-party property managers as it deems appropriate for certain of our properties.

In the event that Wells Management assists a tenant with tenant improvements, a separate fee may be charged to the tenant and paid by the tenant. This fee will not exceed 5.0% of the cost of the tenant improvements.

Wells Management will hire, direct and establish policies for employees who will have direct responsibility for each property's operations, including resident managers and assistant managers, as well as building and maintenance personnel. Some or all of the other employees may be employed on a part-time basis and may also be employed by one or more of the following:

Wells Capital;

Wells Management;

partnerships organized by Wells Management and its affiliates; and

other persons or entities owning properties managed by Wells Management.

Wells Management will direct the purchase of equipment and supplies and will supervise all maintenance activity.

The management fees to be paid to Wells Management will cover, without additional expense to the Wells REIT, the property manager's general overhead costs such as its expenses for rent and utilities.

The principal office of Wells Management is located at 6200 The Corners Parkway, Suite 250, Atlanta, Georgia 30092.

Dealer Manager

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

Wells Investment Securities, Inc. (Wells Investment Securities), our Dealer Manager, is a member firm of the NASD, Inc. (NASD). Wells Investment Securities was organized in May 1984 for the purpose of participating in and facilitating the distribution of securities of Wells programs.

Wells Investment Securities will provide certain wholesaling, sales promotional and marketing assistance services to the Wells REIT in connection with the distribution of the shares offered pursuant to this prospectus. It may also sell shares at the retail level. (See Plan of Distribution and Management Compensation.)

Table of Contents

Wells Real Estate Funds, Inc. is the sole stockholder and Mr. Wells is the President, Treasurer and sole director of Wells Investment Securities. (See Conflicts of Interest.)

IRA Custodian

Wells Advisors, Inc. (Wells Advisors) was organized in 1991 for the purpose of acting as a non-bank custodian for IRAs investing in the securities of Wells real estate programs. Wells Advisors currently charges no fees for such services. Wells Advisors was approved by the Internal Revenue Service to act as a qualified non-bank custodian for IRAs on March 20, 1992. In circumstances where Wells Advisors acts as an IRA custodian, the authority of Wells Advisors is limited to holding limited partnership units or REIT shares on behalf of the beneficiary of the IRA and making distributions or reinvestments in such units or shares solely at the direction of the beneficiary of the IRA. Well Advisors is not authorized to vote any of such units or shares held in any IRA except in accordance with the written instructions of the beneficiary of the IRA. Mr. Wells is the President and sole director and owns 50% of the common stock and all of the preferred stock of Wells Advisors. As of June 30, 2002, Wells Advisors was acting as the IRA custodian for in excess of \$373,442,000 in Wells real estate program investments.

Management Decisions

The primary responsibility for the management decisions of Wells Capital and its affiliates, including the selection of investment properties to be recommended to our board of directors, the negotiation for these investments, and the property management and leasing of these investment properties, will reside in Leo F. Wells, III, Douglas P. Williams, M. Scott Meadows, David H. Steinwedell and John G. Oliver. Wells Capital seeks to invest in commercial properties that satisfy our investment objectives, typically office and industrial buildings located in densely populated metropolitan markets in which the major tenant is a company with a net worth of in excess of \$100,000,000. Our board of directors must approve all acquisitions of real estate properties.

MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION

The following table summarizes and discloses all of the compensation and fees, including reimbursement of expenses, to be paid by the Wells REIT to Wells Capital and its affiliates.

Form of

Compensation and Entity Receiving	Determination of Amount	Estimated Maximum Dollar Amount(1)
--	------------------------------------	---

Organizational and Offering Stage

Selling Commissions		\$ 231,000,000
Wells Investment Securities	Up to 7.0% of gross offering proceeds before reallowance of commissions earned by participating broker-dealers. Wells Investment Securities, our Dealer Manager, intends to reallow 100% of commissions earned for those transactions that involve participating broker-dealers.	

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

Dealer Manager Fee		\$ 82,500,000
Wells Investment Securities	Up to 2.5% of gross offering proceeds before reallocation to participating broker-dealers. Wells Investment Securities, in its sole discretion, may reallocate a portion of its dealer manager fee of up to 1.5% of the gross offering proceeds to be paid to such participating broker-dealers.	

Table of Contents

Form of

Compensation and Entity Receiving	Determination of Amount	Estimated Maximum Dollar Amount(1)
Reimbursement of Organization and Offering Expenses Wells Capital or its Affiliates(2)	Up to 3.0% of gross offering proceeds. All organization and offering expenses (excluding selling commissions and the dealer manager fee) will be advanced by Wells Capital or its affiliates and reimbursed by the Wells REIT up to 3.0% of aggregate gross offering proceeds. We currently estimate that approximately \$49,500,000 of organization and offering costs will be incurred if the maximum offering of 330,000,000 shares is sold.	\$ 49,500,000 (estimated)
<i>Acquisition and Development Stage</i>		
Acquisition and Advisory Fees Wells Capital or its Affiliates(3)	Up to 3.0% of gross offering proceeds for the review and evaluation of potential real property acquisitions.	\$ 99,000,000
Reimbursement of Acquisition Expenses Wells Capital or its Affiliates(3)	Up to 0.5% of gross offering proceeds for reimbursement of expenses related to real property acquisitions, such as legal fees, travel expenses, property appraisals, title insurance premium expenses and other closing costs.	\$ 16,500,000
<i>Operational Stage</i>		
Property Management and Leasing Fees Wells Management	For the management and leasing of our properties, we will pay Wells Management, our Property Manager, property management and leasing fees of up to 4.5% of gross revenues; provided, however, that aggregate property management and leasing fees payable to Wells Management may not exceed the lesser of: (A) 4.5% of gross revenues; or (B) 0.6% of the net asset value of the properties (excluding vacant properties) owned by the Wells REIT, calculated on an annual basis. For purposes of this calculation, net asset value shall be defined as the excess of (1) the aggregate of the fair market value of all properties owned by the Wells REIT (excluding vacant properties), over (2) the aggregate outstanding debt of the Wells REIT (excluding debts having maturities of one year or less). In addition, we may pay Wells Management a separate fee for the one-time initial rent-up or leasing-up of newly constructed properties in an amount not to exceed the fee customarily charged in arm's length transactions by others rendering similar services in the same geographic area for similar properties as determined by a survey of brokers and agents in such area (customarily equal to the first month's rent).	Actual amounts are dependent upon results of operations and therefore cannot be determined at the present time.

Table of Contents

Form of

Compensation and Entity Receiving	Determination of Amount	Estimated Maximum Dollar Amount(1)
Real Estate Commissions Wells Capital or its Affiliates	In connection with the sale of properties, an amount not exceeding the lesser of: (A) 50% of the reasonable, customary and competitive real estate brokerage commissions customarily paid for the sale of a comparable property in light of the size, type and location of the property; or (B) 3.0% of the contract price of each property sold, subordinated to distributions to investors from sale proceeds of an amount which, together with prior distributions to the investors, will equal (1) 100% of their capital contributions, plus (2) an 8.0% annual cumulative, noncompounded return on their net capital contributions; provided however, in no event will the amounts paid under (A) or (B) exceed an amount equal to 6.0% of the contract sales price when combined with real estate commissions paid to unaffiliated third parties.	Actual amounts are dependent upon results of operations and therefore cannot be determined at the present time.
Subordinated Participation in Net Sale Proceeds Wells Capital(4)	After investors have received a return of their net capital contributions and an 8.0% per year cumulative, noncompounded return, then Wells Capital is entitled to receive 10.0% of remaining net sale proceeds.	Actual amounts are dependent upon results of operations and therefore cannot be determined at the present time.
Subordinated Incentive Listing Fee Wells Capital(5)(6)	Upon listing, a fee equal to 10.0% of the amount by which (1) the market value of the outstanding stock of the Wells REIT plus distributions paid by the Wells REIT prior to listing, exceeds (2) the sum of the total amount of capital raised from investors and the amount of cash flow necessary to generate an 8.0% per year cumulative, noncompounded return to investors.	Actual amounts are dependent upon results of operations and therefore cannot be determined at the present time.

The Wells REIT may not reimburse any entity for operating expenses in excess of the greater of 2% of our average invested assets or 25% of our net income for the year.

(Footnotes to Management Compensation)

- (1) The estimated maximum dollar amounts are based on the sale of a maximum of 300,000,000 shares to the public at \$10 per share and the sale of 30,000,000 shares at \$10 per share pursuant to our dividend reinvestment plan.
- (2) These reimbursements will include organization and offering expenses previously advanced by Wells Capital with regards to prior offerings of our shares, to the extent not reimbursed out of proceeds from prior offerings, and subject for the 3.0% of gross offering proceeds overall limitation.
- (3) Notwithstanding the method by which we calculate the payment of acquisition fees and expenses, as described in the table, the total of all such acquisition fees and acquisition expenses shall not exceed, in the aggregate, an amount equal to 6.0% of the contract price of all of the properties which we will purchase, as required by the NASAA Guidelines.
- (4) The subordinated participation in net sale proceeds and the subordinated incentive listing fee to be received by Wells Capital are mutually exclusive of each other. In the event that the Wells REIT becomes listed and Wells Capital receives the subordinated incentive listing fee prior to its

Table of Contents

receipt of the subordinated participation in net sale proceeds, Wells Capital shall not be entitled to any such participation in net sale proceeds.

- (5) If at any time the shares become listed on a national securities exchange or included for quotation on NASDAQ, we will negotiate in good faith with Wells Capital a fee structure appropriate for an entity with a perpetual life. A majority of the independent directors must approve the new fee structure negotiated with Wells Capital. In negotiating a new fee structure, the independent directors shall consider all of the factors they deem relevant, including but not limited to:

the size of the advisory fee in relation to the size, composition and profitability of our portfolio;

the success of Wells Capital in generating opportunities that meet our investment objectives;

the rates charged to other REITs and to investors other than REITs by advisors performing similar services;

additional revenues realized by Wells Capital through their relationship with us;

the quality and extent of service and advice furnished by Wells Capital;

the performance of our investment portfolio, including income, conservation or appreciation of capital, frequency of problem investments and competence in dealing with distress situations; and

the quality of our portfolio in relationship to the investments generated by Wells Capital for the account of other clients.

Our board of directors, including a majority of the independent directors, may not approve a new fee structure that is, in its judgment, more favorable to Wells Capital than the current fee structure.

- (6) The market value of the outstanding stock of the Wells REIT will be calculated based on the average market value of the shares issued and outstanding at listing over the 30 trading days beginning 180 days after the shares are first listed on a stock exchange.

We have the option to pay the listing fee in the form of stock, cash, a promissory note or any combination thereof. In the event the subordinated incentive listing fee is paid to Wells Capital as a result of the listing of the shares, we will not be required to pay Wells Capital any further subordinated participation in net sale proceeds.

In addition, Wells Capital and its affiliates will be reimbursed only for the actual cost of goods, services and materials used for or by the Wells REIT. Wells Capital may be reimbursed for the administrative services necessary to the prudent operation of the Wells REIT provided that the reimbursement shall not be for services for which it is entitled to compensation by way of a separate fee.

Since Wells Capital and its affiliates are entitled to differing levels of compensation for undertaking different transactions on behalf of the Wells REIT such as the property management fees for operating the properties and the subordinated participation in net sale proceeds, Wells Capital has the ability to affect the nature of the compensation it receives by undertaking different transactions. However, Wells Capital is obligated to exercise good faith and integrity in all its dealings with respect to our affairs pursuant to the advisory agreement. (See Management The Advisory Agreement.) Because these fees or expenses are payable only with respect to certain transactions or services, they may not be recovered by

Wells Capital or its affiliates by reclassifying them under a different category.

Table of Contents**STOCK OWNERSHIP**

The following table shows, as of June 30, 2002, the amount of our common stock beneficially owned (unless otherwise indicated) by (1) any person who is known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of our common stock, (2) our directors, (3) our executive officers, and (4) all of our directors and executive officers as a group.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Shares Beneficially Owned	
	Shares	Percentage
Leo F. Wells, III 6200 The Corners Parkway, Suite 250 Atlanta, GA 30092	698	*
Douglas P. Williams 6200 The Corners Parkway, Suite 250 Atlanta, GA 30092	None	N/A
John L. Bell(1) 800 Mt. Vernon Highway, Suite 230 Atlanta, GA 30328	3,000	*
Michael R. Buchanan 1630 Misty Oaks Drive Atlanta, GA 30350	None	N/A
Richard W. Carpenter(1) Realmark Holdings Corporation P.O. Box 421669 (30342) 5570 Glenridge Drive Atlanta, GA 30342	3,000	*
Bud Carter(1) The Executive Committee 100 Mount Shasta Lane Alpharetta, GA 30022-5440	8,373	*
William H. Keogler, Jr.(1) 469 Atlanta Country Club Drive Marietta, GA 30067	3,000	*
Donald S. Moss(1) 114 Summerour Vale Duluth, GA 30097	80,717	*
Walter W. Sessoms(1) 5995 River Chase Circle NW	40,243	*

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

Atlanta, GA 30328

Neil H. Strickland(1)

3,285

*

Strickland General Agency, Inc.

3109 Crossing Park

P.O. Box 129

Norcross, GA 30091

All directors and executive officers as a group(2)

142,316

*

* Less than 1% of the outstanding common stock.

(1) Includes options to purchase up to 3,000 shares of common stock, which are exercisable within 60 days of June 30, 2002.

(2) Includes options to purchase an aggregate of up to 21,000 shares of common stock, which are exercisable within 60 days of June 30, 2002.

Table of Contents

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

We are subject to various conflicts of interest arising out of our relationship with Wells Capital, our advisor, and its affiliates, including conflicts related to the arrangements pursuant to which Wells Capital and its affiliates will be compensated by the Wells REIT. (See Management Compensation.)

The independent directors have an obligation to function on our behalf in all situations in which a conflict of interest may arise and have a statutory obligation to act in the best interest of the stockholders. (See Management Limited Liability and Indemnification of Directors, Officers, Employees and Other Agents.) These conflicts include, but are not limited to, the following:

Interests in Other Real Estate Programs

Wells Capital and its affiliates are general partners of other Wells programs, including partnerships which have investment objectives similar to those of the Wells REIT, and we expect that they will organize other such partnerships and programs in the future. Wells Capital and such affiliates have legal and financial obligations with respect to these partnerships that are similar to their obligations to the Wells REIT. As general partners, they may have contingent liability for the obligations of such partnerships as well as those of the Wells REIT that, if such obligations were enforced against them, could result in substantial reduction of their net worth.

Wells Capital and its affiliates are currently sponsoring a real estate program known as Wells Real Estate Fund XIII, L.P. (Wells Fund XIII). The registration statement of Wells Fund XIII was declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on March 29, 2001 for the offer and sale to the public of up to 4,500,000 units of limited partnership interest at a price of \$10.00 per unit.

As described in the Prior Performance Summary, Wells Capital and its affiliates have sponsored the following 14 public real estate programs with substantially identical investment objectives as those of the Wells REIT:

1. Wells Real Estate Fund I (Wells Fund I),
2. Wells Real Estate Fund II (Wells Fund II),
3. Wells Real Estate Fund II-OW (Wells Fund II-OW),
4. Wells Real Estate Fund III, L.P. (Wells Fund III),

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

5. Wells Real Estate Fund IV, L.P. (Wells Fund IV),

6. Wells Real Estate Fund V, L.P. (Wells Fund V),

7. Wells Real Estate Fund VI, L.P. (Wells Fund VI),

8. Wells Real Estate Fund VII, L.P. (Wells Fund VII),

9. Wells Real Estate Fund VIII, L.P. (Wells Fund VIII),

10. Wells Real Estate Fund IX, L.P. (Wells Fund IX),

11. Wells Real Estate Fund X, L.P. (Wells Fund X),

12. Wells Real Estate Fund XI, L.P. (Wells Fund XI),

13. Wells Real Estate Fund XII, L.P. (Wells Fund XII), and

14. Wells Real Estate Fund XIII, L.P. (Wells Fund XIII).

In the event that the Wells REIT, or any other Wells program or other entity formed or managed by Wells Capital or its affiliates is in the market for similar properties, Wells Capital will review the investment portfolio of each such affiliated entity prior to making a decision as to which Wells program will purchase such properties. (See Certain Conflict Resolution Procedures.)

Table of Contents

Wells Capital or one of its affiliates may acquire, for its own account or for private placement, properties which it deems not suitable for purchase by the Wells REIT, whether because of the greater degree of risk, the complexity of structuring inherent in such transactions, financing considerations or for other reasons, including properties with potential for attractive investment returns.

Other Activities of Wells Capital and its Affiliates

We rely on Wells Capital for the day-to-day operation of our business. As a result of its interests in other Wells programs and the fact that it has also engaged and will continue to engage in other business activities, Wells Capital and its affiliates will have conflicts of interest in allocating their time between the Wells REIT and other Wells programs and activities in which they are involved. (See Risk Factors Investment Risks.) However, Wells Capital believes that it and its affiliates have sufficient personnel to discharge fully their responsibilities to all of the Wells programs and ventures in which they are involved.

In addition, certain of our executive officers and directors are also officers and directors of Wells Capital, our advisor and the general partner of the various real estate programs sponsored by Wells Capital and its affiliates described above, Wells Management, our Property Manager, and Wells Investment Securities, our Dealer Manager, and as such, owe fiduciary duties to these various entities and their stockholders and limited partners. Such fiduciary duties may from time to time conflict with the fiduciary duties owed to the Wells REIT and its stockholders. (See Risk Factors Investment Risks.)

In addition to the real estate programs sponsored by Wells Capital and its affiliates described above, Wells Capital and its affiliates are also sponsoring an index mutual fund that invests in various REIT stocks known as the Wells S&P REIT Index Fund (REIT Index Fund). The REIT Index Fund is a mutual fund which seeks to provide investment results corresponding to the performance of the S&P REIT Index by investing in the REIT stocks included in the S&P REIT Index.

We may purchase or lease a property from Wells Capital or its affiliates upon a finding by a majority of our board of directors, including a majority of the independent directors, not otherwise interested in the transaction, that such transaction is competitive and commercially reasonable to the Wells REIT and at a price no greater than the cost of the property; provided, however, if the price is in excess of the cost of such property, that substantial justification for such excess exists and such excess is reasonable and the acquisition is disclosed. In no event may the Wells REIT:

loan funds to Wells Capital or any of its affiliates; or

enter into agreements with Wells Capital or its affiliates for the provision of insurance covering the Wells REIT or any of our properties.

Competition

Conflicts of interest will exist to the extent that we may acquire properties in the same geographic areas where other Wells programs own properties. In such a case, a conflict could arise in the leasing of properties in the event that the Wells REIT and another Wells program were to compete for the same tenants in negotiating leases, or a conflict could arise in connection with the resale of properties in the event that the Wells REIT and another Wells program were to attempt to sell similar properties at the same time. (See Risk Factors Investment Risks). Conflicts of

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

interest may also exist at such time as the Wells REIT or our affiliates managing property on our behalf seek to employ developers, contractors or building managers as well as under other circumstances. Wells Capital will seek to reduce conflicts relating to the employment of developers, contractors or building managers by making prospective employees aware of all such properties seeking to employ such persons. In addition, Wells Capital will seek to reduce conflicts which may arise with respect to properties available for sale or rent by making

Table of Contents

prospective purchasers or tenants aware of all such properties. However, these conflicts cannot be fully avoided in that Wells Capital may establish differing compensation arrangements for employees at different properties or differing terms for resales or leasing of the various properties.

Affiliated Dealer Manager

Since Wells Investment Securities, our Dealer Manager, is an affiliate of Wells Capital, we will not have the benefit of an independent due diligence review and investigation of the type normally performed by an unaffiliated, independent underwriter in connection with the offering of securities. (See Plan of Distribution.)

Affiliated Property Manager

Since we anticipate that properties we acquire will be managed and leased by Wells Management, our Property Manager, we will not have the benefit of independent property management. (See Management Affiliated Companies.)

Lack of Separate Representation

Holland & Knight LLP is counsel to the Wells REIT, Wells Capital, Wells Investment Securities and their affiliates in connection with this offering and may in the future act as counsel to the Wells REIT, Wells Capital, Wells Investment Securities and their various affiliates. There is a possibility that in the future the interests of the various parties may become adverse. In the event that a dispute were to arise between the Wells REIT and Wells Capital, Wells Investment Securities or any of their affiliates, separate counsel for such matters will be retained as and when appropriate.

Joint Ventures with Affiliates of Wells Capital

We have entered into joint ventures with other Wells programs to acquire and own properties and are likely to enter into one or more joint venture agreements with other Wells programs for the acquisition, development or improvement of properties. (See Investment Objectives and Criteria Joint Venture Investments.) Wells Capital and its affiliates may have conflicts of interest in determining which Wells program should enter into any particular joint venture agreement. The co-venturer may have economic or business interests or goals which are or which may become inconsistent with our business interests or goals. In addition, should any such joint venture be consummated, Wells Capital may face a conflict in structuring the terms of the relationship between our interests and the interest of the affiliated co-venturer and in managing the joint venture. Since Wells Capital and its affiliates will control both the affiliated co-venturer and, to a certain extent, the Wells REIT, agreements and transactions between the co-venturers with respect to any such joint venture will not have the benefit of arm's-length negotiation of the type normally conducted between unrelated co-venturers. (See Risk Factors Investment Risks.)

Receipt of Fees and Other Compensation by Wells Capital and its Affiliates

A transaction involving the purchase and sale of properties may result in the receipt of commissions, fees and other compensation by Wells Capital and its affiliates, including acquisition and advisory fees, the dealer manager fee, property management and leasing fees, real estate brokerage commissions, and participation in nonliquidating net sale proceeds. However, the fees and compensation payable to Wells Capital and its affiliates relating to the sale of properties are subordinated to the return to the stockholders of their capital contributions plus cumulative returns on such capital. Subject to oversight by our board of directors, Wells Capital has considerable discretion with respect to all decisions relating to the terms and timing of all transactions. Therefore, Wells Capital may have conflicts of

Table of Contents

interest concerning certain actions taken on our behalf, particularly due to the fact that such fees will generally be payable to Wells Capital and its affiliates regardless of the quality of the properties acquired or the services provided to the Wells REIT. (See Management Compensation.)

Every transaction we enter into with Wells Capital or its affiliates is subject to an inherent conflict of interest. The board may encounter conflicts of interest in enforcing our rights against any affiliate in the event of a default by or disagreement with an affiliate or in invoking powers, rights or options pursuant to any agreement between us and any affiliate. A majority of the independent directors who are otherwise disinterested in the transaction must approve each transaction between us and Wells Capital or any of its affiliates as being fair and reasonable to us and on terms and conditions no less favorable to us than those available from unaffiliated third parties.

Certain Conflict Resolution Procedures

In order to reduce or eliminate certain potential conflicts of interest, our articles of incorporation contain a number of restrictions relating to (1) transactions we enter into with Wells Capital and its affiliates, (2) certain future offerings, and (3) allocation of properties among affiliated entities. These restrictions include, among others, the following:

Except as otherwise described in this prospectus, we will not accept goods or services from Wells Capital or its affiliates unless a majority of our directors, including a majority of the independent directors, not otherwise interested in the transactions, approve such transactions as fair and reasonable to the Wells REIT and on terms and conditions not less favorable to the Wells REIT than those available from unaffiliated third parties.

We will not purchase or lease properties in which Wells Capital or its affiliates has an interest without a determination by a majority of our directors, including a majority of the independent directors, not otherwise interested in such transaction, that such transaction is competitive and commercially reasonable to the Wells REIT and at a price to the Wells REIT no greater than the cost of the property to Wells Capital or its affiliates, unless there is substantial justification for any amount that exceeds such cost and such excess amount is determined to be reasonable. In no event will we acquire any such property at an amount in excess of its appraised value. We will not sell or lease properties to Wells Capital or its affiliates or to our directors unless a majority of our directors, including a majority of the independent directors, not otherwise interested in the transaction, determine the transaction is fair and reasonable to the Wells REIT.

We will not make any loans to Wells Capital or its affiliates or to our directors. In addition, Wells Capital and its affiliates will not make loans to us or to joint ventures in which we are a joint venture partner for the purpose of acquiring properties. Any loans made to us by Wells Capital or its affiliates or our directors for other purposes must be approved by a majority of our directors, including a majority of the independent directors, not otherwise interested in the transaction, as fair, competitive and commercially reasonable, and no less favorable to the Wells REIT than comparable loans between unaffiliated parties. Wells Capital and its affiliates shall be entitled to reimbursement, at cost, for actual expenses incurred by them on behalf of the Wells REIT or joint ventures in which we are a joint venture partner, subject to the limitation on reimbursement of operating expenses to the extent that they exceed the greater of 2% of our average invested assets or 25% of our net income, as described in the Management The Advisory Agreement section of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

In the event that an investment opportunity becomes available which is suitable, under all of the factors considered by Wells Capital, for the Wells REIT and one or more other public or private entities affiliated with Wells Capital and its affiliates, then the entity which has had the longest period of time elapse since it was offered an investment opportunity will first be offered such investment opportunity. In determining whether or not an investment opportunity is suitable for more than one program, Wells Capital, subject to approval by our board of directors, shall examine, among others, the following factors:

the cash requirements of each program;

the effect of the acquisition both on diversification of each program's investments by type of commercial property and geographic area, and on diversification of the tenants of its properties;

the policy of each program relating to leverage of properties;

the anticipated cash flow of each program;

the income tax effects of the purchase of each program;

the size of the investment; and

the amount of funds available to each program and the length of time such funds have been available for investment.

If a subsequent event or development, such as a delay in the closing of a property or a delay in the construction of a property, causes any such investment, in the opinion of our board of directors and Wells Capital, to be more appropriate for a program other than the program that committed to make the investment, Wells Capital may determine that another program affiliated with Wells Capital or its affiliates will make the investment. Our board of directors has a duty to ensure that the method used by Wells Capital for the allocation of the acquisition of properties by two or more affiliated programs seeking to acquire similar types of properties shall be reasonable.

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND CRITERIA

General

We invest in commercial real estate properties, including properties that are under development or construction, are newly constructed or have been constructed and have operating histories. Our investment objectives are:

to maximize cash dividends paid to you;

to preserve, protect and return your capital contributions;

to realize growth in the value of our properties upon our ultimate sale of such properties; and

to provide you with liquidity of your investment by listing the shares on a national exchange or, if we do not obtain listing of the shares by January 30, 2008, our articles of incorporation require us to begin the process of selling our properties and distributing the net proceeds from such sales to you.

Table of Contents

We cannot assure you that we will attain these objectives or that our capital will not decrease. We may not change our investment objectives, except upon approval of stockholders holding a majority of our outstanding shares. (See Description of Shares.)

Decisions relating to the purchase or sale of properties will be made by Wells Capital, as our advisor, subject to approval by our board of directors. See Management for a description of the background and experience of our directors and executive officers.

Acquisition and Investment Policies

We will seek to invest substantially all of the offering proceeds available for investment after the payment of fees and expenses in the acquisition of high-grade commercial office and industrial buildings located in densely populated metropolitan markets, which are newly constructed, under construction, or which have been previously constructed and have operating histories. We are not limited to such investments, however. We may invest in other real estate investments, including, but not limited to, warehouse and distribution facilities, shopping centers, business and industrial parks, manufacturing facilities and other types of real estate properties. To date, we have invested primarily in office and industrial buildings located in densely populated suburban markets. (See Description of Real Estate Investments and Prior Performance Summary.) We will primarily attempt to acquire commercial properties that are less than five years old, the space in which has been leased or preleased to one or more large corporate tenants who satisfy our standards of creditworthiness. (See Terms of Leases and Tenant Creditworthiness.)

We will seek to invest in properties that will satisfy the primary objective of providing cash dividends to our stockholders. However, because a significant factor in the valuation of income-producing real properties is their potential for future income, we anticipate that the majority of properties we acquire will have both the potential for growth in value and providing cash dividends to our stockholders. To the extent feasible, we will strive to invest in a diversified portfolio of properties in terms of geography, type of property and industry group of our tenants, that will satisfy our investment objectives of maximizing cash available for payment of dividends, preserving our capital and realizing growth in value upon the ultimate sale of our properties.

We anticipate that a minimum of 84% of the proceeds from the sale of shares will be used to acquire real estate properties and the balance will be used to pay various fees and expenses. (See Estimated Use of Proceeds.)

We anticipate purchasing land for the purpose of developing the types of commercial buildings described above. We will not invest more than 10% of the net offering proceeds available for investment in properties in unimproved or non-income producing properties. A property: (1) not acquired for the purpose of producing rental or other operating income, or (2) with no development or construction in process or planned in good faith to commence within one year will be considered unimproved property for purposes of this limitation.

Although we are not limited as to the form our investments may take, our investments in real estate will generally take the form of holding fee title or a long-term leasehold estate in the properties we acquire. We will acquire such interests either directly in Wells OP (See The Operating Partnership Agreement) or indirectly by acquiring membership interests in or acquisitions of property through limited liability companies or through investments in joint ventures, partnerships, co-tenancies or other co-ownership arrangements with developers of properties, affiliates of Wells Capital or other persons. (See Joint Venture Investments below.) We may invest in or make mortgage loans, junior debt or subordinated mortgage loans or combinations of debt and equity, subject to the limitations contained in

Table of Contents

our articles of incorporation. In addition, we may purchase properties and lease them back to the sellers of such properties. While we will use our best efforts to structure any such sale-leaseback transaction such that the lease will be characterized as a true lease so that we will be treated as the owner of the property for federal income tax purposes, we cannot assure you that the IRS will not challenge such characterization. In the event that any such sale-leaseback transaction is recharacterized as a financing transaction for federal income tax purposes, deductions for depreciation and cost recovery relating to such property would be disallowed. (See Federal Income Tax Considerations Sale-Leaseback Transactions.)

Although we are not limited as to the geographic area where we may conduct our operations, we currently intend to invest in properties located in the United States.

We are not specifically limited in the number or size of properties we may acquire or on the percentage of net proceeds of this offering that we may invest in a single property. The number and mix of properties we acquire will depend upon real estate and market conditions and other circumstances existing at the time we are acquiring our properties and the amount of proceeds we raise in this offering.

In making investment decisions for us, Wells Capital will consider relevant real estate property and financial factors, including the creditworthiness of major tenants, the location of the property, its suitability for any development contemplated or in progress, its income-producing capacity, the prospects for long-range appreciation, its liquidity and income tax considerations. In this regard, Wells Capital will have substantial discretion with respect to the selection of specific investments.

Our obligation to close the purchase of any investment will generally be conditioned upon the delivery and verification of certain documents from the seller or developer, including, where appropriate:

plans and specifications;

environmental reports;

surveys;

evidence of marketable title subject to such liens and encumbrances as are acceptable to Wells Capital;

title and liability insurance policies; and

audited financial statements covering recent operations of properties having operating histories unless such statements are not required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

We will not close the purchase of any property unless and until we obtain an environmental assessment, a minimum of a Phase I review, for each property purchased and are generally satisfied with the environmental status of the property.

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

We may also enter into arrangements with the seller or developer of a property whereby the seller or developer agrees that if during a stated period the property does not generate a specified cash flow, the seller or developer will pay in cash to the Wells REIT a sum necessary to reach the specified cash flow level, subject in some cases to negotiated dollar limitations.

In determining whether to purchase a particular property, we may, in accordance with customary practices, obtain an option on such property. The amount paid for an option, if any, is normally

Table of Contents

surrendered if the property is not purchased and is normally credited against the purchase price if the property is purchased.

In purchasing, leasing and developing real estate properties, we will be subject to risks generally incident to the ownership of real estate, including:

changes in general economic or local conditions;

changes in supply of or demand for similar or competing properties in an area;

changes in interest rates and availability of permanent mortgage funds which may render the sale of a property difficult or unattractive;

changes in tax, real estate, environmental and zoning laws;

periods of high interest rates and tight money supply which may make the sale of properties more difficult;

tenant turnover; and

general overbuilding or excess supply in the market area.

Development and Construction of Properties

We may invest substantially all of the proceeds available for investment in properties on which improvements are to be constructed or completed although we may not invest in excess of 10% of the offering proceeds available for investment in properties with respect to which construction is not planned in good faith to commence within one year from the date of their acquisition. To help ensure performance by the builders of properties that are under construction, completion of properties under construction may be guaranteed at the price contracted either by an adequate completion bond or performance bond. We may rely, however, upon the substantial net worth of the contractor or developer or a personal guarantee accompanied by financial statements showing a substantial net worth provided by an affiliate of the person entering into the construction or development contract as an alternative to a completion bond or performance bond. Development of real estate properties is subject to risks relating to a builder's ability to control construction costs or to build in conformity with plans, specifications and timetables. (See Risk Factors Real Estate Risks.)

We may directly employ one or more project managers to plan, supervise and implement the development of any unimproved properties that we may acquire. In such event, such persons would be compensated directly by the Wells REIT.

Terms of Leases and Tenant Creditworthiness

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

The terms and conditions of any lease we enter into with our tenants may vary substantially from those we describe in this prospectus. However, we expect that a majority of our leases will be economically what is generally referred to as triple net leases. A triple net lease provides that in addition to making its lease payments, the tenant will be required to pay or reimburse the Wells REIT for all real estate taxes, sales and use taxes, special assessments, utilities, insurance and building repairs, and other building operation and management costs.

Wells Capital has developed specific standards for determining the creditworthiness of potential tenants of our properties. While authorized to enter into leases with any type of tenant, we anticipate that a majority of our tenants will be large corporations or other entities which have a net worth in excess of

Table of Contents

\$100,000,000 or whose lease obligations are guaranteed by another corporation or entity with a net worth in excess of \$100,000,000. As of June 30, 2002, approximately 95% of the aggregate gross rental income of the Wells REIT was derived from tenants which are corporations, each of which at the time of lease execution had a net worth of at least \$100,000,000 or whose lease obligations were guaranteed by another corporation having a net worth of at least \$100,000,000.

In an attempt to limit or avoid speculative purchases, to the extent possible, Wells Capital will seek to secure, on our behalf, leases with tenants at or prior to the closing of our acquisitions of properties.

We anticipate that tenant improvements required to be funded by the landlord in connection with newly acquired properties will be funded from our offering proceeds. However, at such time as a tenant at one of our properties does not renew its lease or otherwise vacates its space in one of our buildings, it is likely that, in order to attract new tenants, we will be required to expend substantial funds for tenant improvements and tenant refurbishments to the vacated space. Since we do not anticipate maintaining permanent working capital reserves, we may not have access to funds required in the future for tenant improvements and tenant refurbishments in order to attract new tenants to lease vacated space. (See Risk Factors Real Estate Risks.)

Joint Venture Investments

We have entered into joint ventures in the past, and are likely to enter into joint ventures in the future, with affiliated entities for the acquisition, development or improvement of properties for the purpose of diversifying our portfolio of assets. (See Description of Real Estate Investments Joint Ventures with Affiliates.) In this connection, we will likely enter into joint ventures with Wells Fund XIII or other Wells programs. We may also enter into joint ventures, partnerships, co-tenancies and other co-ownership arrangements or participations with real estate developers, owners and other affiliated third-parties for the purpose of developing, owning and operating real properties. (See Conflicts of Interest.) In determining whether to invest in a particular joint venture, Wells Capital will evaluate the real property that such joint venture owns or is being formed to own under the same criteria described elsewhere in this prospectus for the selection of real estate property investments of the Wells REIT. (See generally Investment Objectives and Criteria.)

At such time as Wells Capital enters into a joint venture with another Wells program for the acquisition or development of a specific property, this prospectus will be supplemented to disclose the terms of such investment transaction. We may only enter into joint ventures with other Wells programs for the acquisition of properties if:

a majority of our directors, including a majority of the independent directors, approve the transaction as being fair and reasonable to the Wells REIT;

the investment by the Wells REIT and such affiliate are on substantially the same terms and conditions; and

we will have a right of first refusal to buy if such co-venturer elects to sell its interest in the property held by the joint venture.

In the event that the co-venturer were to elect to sell property held in any such joint venture, however, we may not have sufficient funds to exercise our right of first refusal to buy the other co-venturer's interest in the property held by the joint venture. In the event that any joint venture with an affiliated entity holds interests in more than one property, the interest in each such property may be specially allocated based upon the respective proportion of funds invested by each co-venturer in each such property. Our entering

Table of Contents

into joint ventures with other Wells programs will result in certain conflicts of interest. (See [Conflicts of Interest](#) [Joint Ventures with Affiliates of Wells Capital](#).)

Section 1031 Exchange Program

Wells Development Corporation (Wells Development), an affiliate of Wells Management, our Property Manager, and Wells Capital, our advisor, intends to form a series of single member limited liability companies (each of which is referred to in this prospectus as Wells Exchange) for the purpose of facilitating the acquisition of real estate properties to be owned in co-tenancy arrangements with persons (1031 Participants) who are looking to invest the proceeds from a sale of real estate held for investment in another real estate investment for purposes of qualifying for like-kind exchange treatment under Section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code. We anticipate that Wells Development will sponsor a series of private placement offerings of interests in limited liability companies owning co-tenancy interests in various properties to 1031 Participants.

Wells Development anticipates that properties acquired in connection with the Section 1031 Exchange Program will be financed by obtaining a new first mortgage secured by the property acquired. In order to finance the remainder of the purchase price for properties to be acquired by Wells Exchange, it is anticipated that Wells Exchange will obtain a short-term loan from an institutional lender for each property. Following its acquisition of a property, Wells Exchange will attempt to sell co-tenancy interests to 1031 Participants, the proceeds of which will be used to pay off the short-term loan. At the closing of each property to be acquired by Wells Exchange, we anticipate that Wells OP, our operating partnership, will enter into a contractual arrangement providing that, in the event that Wells Exchange is unable to sell all of the co-tenancy interests in that particular property to 1031 Participants, Wells OP will purchase, at Wells Exchange's cost, any co-tenancy interests remaining unsold. (See [Risk Factors](#) [Section 1031 Exchange Program](#).) In addition, Wells OP may enter into one or more additional contractual arrangements obligating it to purchase co-tenancy interests in a particular property directly from the 1031 Participants. In consideration for such obligations, Wells Exchange will pay Wells OP a fee (Take Out Fee) in an amount currently anticipated to range between 1.0% and 1.5% of the amount of the short-term loan being obtained by Wells Exchange. (See [Risk Factors](#) [Federal Income Tax Risks](#).)

Our board of directors, including a majority of our independent directors, will be required to approve each property acquired pursuant to the Section 1031 Exchange Program in the event that Wells OP has any obligation to potentially acquire any interest in the property. Accordingly, Wells Exchange intends to purchase only real estate properties which otherwise meet the investment objectives of the Wells REIT. Wells OP may execute an agreement providing for the potential purchase of the unsold co-tenancy interests from Wells Exchange only after a majority of our directors, including a majority of our independent directors, not otherwise interested in the transaction, approve of the transaction as being fair, competitive and commercially reasonable to Wells OP and at a price to Wells OP no greater than the cost of the co-tenancy interests to Wells Exchange. If the price to Wells OP is in excess of such cost, our directors must find substantial justification for such excess and that such excess is reasonable. In addition, a fair market value appraisal for each property must be obtained from an independent expert selected by our independent directors, and in no event may Wells OP purchase co-tenancy interests at a price that exceeds the current appraised value for the property interests.

As set forth above, pursuant to the terms of these contractual arrangements, Wells OP may be obligated to purchase co-tenancy interests in certain properties offered to 1031 Participants to the extent co-tenancy interests remain unsold at the end of the offering. All purchasers of co-tenancy interests, including Wells OP in the event that it is required to purchase co-tenancy interests, will be required to execute a tenants in common agreement with the other purchasers of co-tenancy interests in that particular property and a property management agreement providing for the property management and leasing of the

Table of Contents

property by Wells Management and the payment of property management and leasing fees to Wells Management equal to 4.5% of gross revenues. Accordingly, in the event that Wells OP is required to purchase co-tenancy interests pursuant to one or more of these contractual arrangements, we will be subject to various risks associated with co-tenancy arrangements which are not otherwise present in real estate investments such as the risk that the interests of the 1031 Participants will become adverse to our interests. (See Risk Factors Section 1031 Exchange Program.)

Borrowing Policies

While we strive for diversification, the number of different properties we can acquire will be affected by the amount of funds available to us. See Description of Real Estate Investments Real Estate Loans for a description of our existing loans and the outstanding loan balances.

Our ability to increase our diversification through borrowing could be adversely impacted by banks and other lending institutions reducing the amount of funds available for loans secured by real estate. When interest rates on mortgage loans are high or financing is otherwise unavailable on a timely basis, we may purchase certain properties for cash with the intention of obtaining a mortgage loan for a portion of the purchase price at a later time.

There is no limitation on the amount we may invest in any single improved property or on the amount we can borrow for the purchase of any property. The NASAA Guidelines only limit our borrowing to 75% of the value of all properties unless any excess borrowing is approved by a majority of the independent directors and is disclosed to stockholders in our next quarterly report. However, under our articles of incorporation, we have a self-imposed limitation on borrowing which precludes us from borrowing in the aggregate in excess of 50% of the value of all of our properties. As of June 30, 2002, we had an aggregate debt leverage ratio of 1.76% of the value of our properties.

By operating on a leveraged basis, we will have more funds available for investment in properties. This will allow us to make more investments than would otherwise be possible, resulting in a more diversified portfolio. Although our liability for the repayment of indebtedness is expected to be limited to the value of the property securing the liability and the rents or profits derived therefrom, our use of leveraging increases the risk of default on the mortgage payments and a resulting foreclosure of a particular property. (See Risk Factors Real Estate Risks.) To the extent that we do not obtain mortgage loans on our properties, our ability to acquire additional properties will be restricted. Wells Capital will use its best efforts to obtain financing on our behalf on the most favorable terms available. Lenders may have recourse to assets not securing the repayment of the indebtedness.

Wells Capital will refinance properties during the term of a loan only in limited circumstances, such as when a decline in interest rates makes it beneficial to prepay an existing mortgage, when an existing mortgage matures or if an attractive investment becomes available and the proceeds from the refinancing can be used to purchase such investment. The benefits of the refinancing may include an increased cash flow resulting from reduced debt service requirements, an increase in dividend distributions from proceeds of the refinancing, if any, and/or an increase in property ownership if some refinancing proceeds are reinvested in real estate.

We may not borrow money from any of our directors or from Wells Capital and its affiliates for the purpose of acquiring real properties. Any loans by such parties for other purposes must be approved by a majority of our directors, including a majority of the independent directors, not otherwise interested in the transaction, as fair, competitive and commercially reasonable and no less favorable to the Wells REIT than comparable loans between unaffiliated parties.

Table of Contents

Disposition Policies

We intend to hold each property we acquire for an extended period. However, circumstances might arise which could result in the early sale of some properties. We may sell a property before the end of the expected holding period if, among other reasons:

the tenant has involuntarily liquidated;

in the judgment of Wells Capital, the value of a property might decline substantially;

an opportunity has arisen to improve other properties;

we can increase cash flow through the disposition of the property;

the tenant is in default under the lease; or

in our judgment, the sale of the property is in the best interests of our stockholders.

The determination of whether a particular property should be sold or otherwise disposed of will be made after consideration of relevant factors, including prevailing economic conditions, with a view to achieving maximum capital appreciation. We cannot assure you that this objective will be realized. The selling price of a property that is net leased will be determined in large part by the amount of rent payable under the lease. If a tenant has a repurchase option at a formula price, we may be limited in realizing any appreciation. In connection with our sales of properties we may lend the purchaser all or a portion of the purchase price. In these instances, our taxable income may exceed the cash received in the sale. (See Federal Income Tax Considerations Failure to Qualify as a REIT.) The terms of payment will be affected by custom in the area in which the property being sold is located and the then-prevailing economic conditions.

If our shares are not listed for trading on a national securities exchange or included for quotation on NASDAQ by January 30, 2008, our articles of incorporation require us to begin the process of selling our properties and distributing the net sale proceeds to you in liquidation of the Wells REIT. In making the decision to apply for listing of our shares, our directors will try to determine whether listing our shares or liquidating our assets will result in greater value for the stockholders. We cannot determine at this time the circumstances, if any, under which our directors will agree to list our shares. Even if our shares are not listed or included for quotation, we are under no obligation to actually sell our portfolio within this time period since the precise timing will depend on real estate and financial markets, economic conditions of the areas in which the properties are located and federal income tax effects on stockholders which may be applicable in the future. Furthermore, we cannot assure you that we will be able to liquidate our assets, and it should be noted that we will continue in existence until all properties are sold and our other assets are liquidated. In addition, we may consider other business strategies such as reorganizations or mergers with other entities if our board of directors determines such strategies would be in the best interests of our stockholders. Any change in the investment objectives set forth in our articles of incorporation would require the vote of stockholders holding a majority of our outstanding shares.

Investment Limitations

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

Our articles of incorporation place numerous limitations on us with respect to the manner in which we may invest our funds, most of which are required by various provisions of the NASAA Guidelines. These limitations cannot be changed unless our articles of incorporation are amended, which requires approval of our stockholders. Unless our articles are amended, we will not:

borrow in excess of 50% of the aggregate value of all properties owned by us, provided that we may borrow in excess of 50% of the value of an individual property;

Table of Contents

invest in equity securities unless a majority of our directors, including a majority of the independent directors, not otherwise interested in the transaction, approve such investment as being fair, competitive and commercially reasonable;

invest in commodities or commodity futures contracts, except for futures contracts when used solely for the purpose of hedging in connection with our ordinary business of investing in real estate assets and mortgages;

invest in real estate contracts of sale, otherwise known as land sale contracts, unless the contract is in recordable form and is appropriately recorded in the chain of title;

make or invest in mortgage loans except in connection with a sale or other disposition of a property;

make or invest in mortgage loans unless an appraisal is obtained concerning the underlying property except for those mortgage loans insured or guaranteed by a government or government agency. Mortgage debt on any property shall not exceed such property's appraised value. In cases where our board of directors determines, and in all cases in which the transaction is with any of our directors or Wells Capital and its affiliates, such appraisal shall be obtained from an independent appraiser. We will maintain such appraisal in our records for at least five years and it will be available for your inspection and duplication. We will also obtain a mortgagee's or owner's title insurance policy as to the priority of the mortgage;

make or invest in mortgage loans, including construction loans, on any one property if the aggregate amount of all mortgage loans on such property would exceed an amount equal to 85% of the appraised value of such property as determined by appraisal unless substantial justification exists for exceeding such limit because of the presence of other underwriting criteria;

make or invest in mortgage loans that are subordinate to any mortgage or equity interest of any of our directors, Wells Capital or its affiliates;

invest in junior debt secured by a mortgage on real property which is subordinate to the lien or other senior debt except where the amount of such junior debt plus any senior debt exceeds 90% of the appraised value of such property, if after giving effect thereto, the value of all such mortgage loans of the Wells REIT would not then exceed 25% of our net assets, which shall mean our total assets less our total liabilities;

engage in any short sale or borrow on an unsecured basis, if the borrowing will result in asset coverage of less than 300%. Asset coverage, for the purpose of this clause, means the ratio which the value of our total assets, less all liabilities and indebtedness for unsecured borrowings, bears to the aggregate amount of all of our unsecured borrowings;

make investments in unimproved property or indebtedness secured by a deed of trust or mortgage loans on unimproved property in excess of 10% of our total assets;

issue equity securities on a deferred payment basis or other similar arrangement;

issue debt securities in the absence of adequate cash flow to cover debt service;

issue equity securities which are non-voting or assessable;

Table of Contents

issue redeemable securities, as defined in Section 2(a)(32) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, except pursuant to our share redemption program;

grant warrants or options to purchase shares to Wells Capital or its affiliates or to officers or directors affiliated with Wells Capital except on the same terms as the options or warrants are sold to the general public and the amount of the options or warrants does not exceed an amount equal to 10% of the outstanding shares on the date of grant of the warrants and options;

engage in trading, as compared with investment activities, or engage in the business of underwriting or the agency distribution of securities issued by other persons;

invest more than 5% of the value of our assets in the securities of any one issuer if the investment would cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT;

invest in securities representing more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of any one issuer if the investment would cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT; or

lend money to our directors or to Wells Capital or its affiliates.

Wells Capital will continually review our investment activity to attempt to ensure that we do not come within the application of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Among other things, Wells Capital will attempt to monitor the proportion of our portfolio that is placed in various investments so that we do not come within the definition of an investment company under the Act. If at any time the character of our investments could cause us to be deemed an investment company for purposes of the Investment Company Act of 1940, we will take the necessary action to attempt to ensure that we are not deemed to be an investment company.

Change in Investment Objectives and Limitations

Our articles of incorporation require that the independent directors review our investment policies at least annually to determine that the policies we are following are in the best interests of our stockholders. Each determination and the basis therefore is required to be set forth in our minutes. The methods of implementing our investment policies also may vary as new investment techniques are developed. The methods of implementing our investment objectives and policies, except as otherwise provided in the organizational documents, may be altered by a majority of our directors, including a majority of the independent directors, without the approval of the stockholders. Our investment objectives themselves, however, may only be amended by a vote of the stockholders holding a majority of our outstanding shares.

DESCRIPTION OF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS

General

As of July 1, 2002, we had purchased interests in 53 real estate properties located in 19 states, most of which are leased to tenants on an economically triple-net basis. As of July 1, 2002, all of these properties were 100% leased to tenants. The cost of each of the properties will be depreciated for tax purposes over a 40-year period on a straight-line basis. We believe all of the properties are adequately covered by insurance

and are suitable for their intended purposes. The following table provides certain additional information about these properties.

Table of Contents

Property Name	Tenant	Property Location	% Owned	Purchase Price	Square Feet	Annual Rent
ISS Atlanta	Internet Security Systems, Inc.	Atlanta, GA	100%	\$ 40,500,000	238,600	\$ 4,623,445
MFS Phoenix	Massachusetts Financial Services Company	Phoenix, AZ	100%	\$ 25,800,000	148,605	\$ 2,347,959
TRW Denver	TRW, Inc.	Aurora, CO	100%	\$ 21,060,000	108,240	\$ 2,870,709
Agilent Boston	Agilent Technologies, Inc.	Boxborough, MA	100%	\$ 31,742,274	174,585	\$ 3,578,993
Experian/TRW	Experian Information Solutions, Inc.	Allen, TX	100%	\$ 35,150,000	292,700	\$ 3,438,277
BellSouth Ft. Lauderdale	BellSouth Advertising and Publishing Corporation	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	100%	\$ 6,850,000	47,400	\$ 747,033
Agilent Atlanta	Agilent Technologies, Inc. Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.	Alpharetta, GA	100%	\$ 15,100,000	66,811 34,396	\$ 1,344,905 \$ 692,391
Travelers Express Denver	Travelers Express Company, Inc.	Lakewood, CO	100%	\$ 10,395,845	68,165	\$ 1,012,250
Dana Kalamazoo	Dana Corporation	Kalamazoo, MI	100%	\$ 41,950,000(1)	147,004	\$ 1,842,800
Dana Detroit	Dana Corporation	Farmington Hills, MI	100%	(see above) (1)	112,480	\$ 2,330,600
Novartis Atlanta	Novartis Ophthalmics, Inc.	Duluth, GA	100%	\$ 15,000,000	100,087	\$ 1,426,240
Transocean Houston	Transocean Deepwater Offshore Drilling, Inc. Newpark Drilling Fluids, Inc.	Houston, TX	100%	\$ 22,000,000	103,260 52,731	\$ 2,110,035 \$ 1,153,227
Arthur Andersen	Arthur Andersen LLP	Sarasota, FL	100%	\$ 21,400,000	157,700	\$ 1,988,454
Windy Point I	TCI Great Lakes, Inc. The Apollo Group, Inc. Global Knowledge Network	Schaumburg, IL	100%	\$ 32,225,000(2)	129,157 28,322 22,028 8,884	\$ 2,067,204 \$ 477,226 \$ 393,776 \$ 160,000
Windy Point II	Various other tenants Zurich American Insurance	Schaumburg, IL	100%	\$ 57,050,000(2)	300,034	\$ 5,091,577
Convergys	Convergys Customer Management Group, Inc.	Tamarac, FL	100%	\$ 13,255,000	100,000	\$ 1,248,192
ADIC	Advanced Digital Information Corporation	Parker, CO	68.2%	\$ 12,954,213	148,204	\$ 1,222,683
Lucent	Lucent Technologies, Inc.	Cary, NC	100%	\$ 17,650,000	120,000	\$ 1,800,000
Ingram Micro	Ingram Micro, L.P.	Millington, TN	100%	\$ 21,050,000	701,819	\$ 2,035,275
Nissan (3)	Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation	Irving, TX	100%	\$ 42,259,000(4)	268,290	\$ 4,225,860(5)
IKON	IKON Office Solutions, Inc.	Houston, TX	100%	\$ 20,650,000	157,790	\$ 2,015,767
State Street	SSB Realty, LLC	Quincy, MA	100%	\$ 49,563,000	234,668	\$ 6,922,706
AmeriCredit	AmeriCredit Financial Services Corporation	Orange Park, FL	68.2%	\$ 12,500,000	85,000	\$ 1,336,200
Comdata	Comdata Network, Inc.	Brentwood, TN	55.0%	\$ 24,950,000	201,237	\$ 2,458,638
AT&T Oklahoma	AT&T Corp.	Oklahoma City, OK	55.0%	\$ 15,300,000	103,500 25,000	\$ 1,242,000 \$ 294,500
Metris Minnesota	Jordan Associates, Inc. Metris Direct, Inc.	Minnetonka, MN	100%	\$ 52,800,000	300,633	\$ 4,960,445
Stone & Webster	Stone & Webster, Inc.	Houston, TX	100%	\$ 44,970,000	206,048 106,516	\$ 4,533,056 \$ 2,130,320
Motorola Plainfield	SYSCO Corporation Motorola, Inc.	S. Plainfield, NJ	100%	\$ 33,648,156	236,710	\$ 3,324,428
Quest	Quest Software, Inc.	Irvine, CA	15.8%	\$ 7,193,000	65,006	\$ 1,287,119

Table of Contents

Property Name	Tenant	Property Location	% Owned	Purchase	Square	Annual
				Price	Feet	Rent
Delphi	Delphi Automotive Systems, LLC	Troy, MI	100%	\$ 19,800,000	107,193	\$ 1,955,524
Avnet	Avnet, Inc.	Tempe, AZ	100%	\$ 13,250,000	132,070	\$ 1,516,164
Siemens	Siemens Automotive Corp.	Troy, MI	56.8%	\$ 14,265,000	77,054	\$ 1,374,643
Motorola Tempe	Motorola, Inc.	Tempe, AZ	100%	\$ 16,000,000	133,225	\$ 1,843,834
ASML	ASM Lithography, Inc.	Tempe, AZ	100%	\$ 17,355,000	95,133	\$ 1,927,788
Dial	Dial Corporation	Scottsdale, AZ	100%	\$ 14,250,000	129,689	\$ 1,387,672
Metris Tulsa	Metris Direct, Inc.	Tulsa, OK	100%	\$ 12,700,000	101,100	\$ 1,187,925
Cinemark	Cinemark USA, Inc.				65,521	\$ 1,366,491
	The Coca-Cola Company	Plano, TX	100%	\$ 21,800,000	52,587	\$ 1,354,184
Gartner	The Gartner Group, Inc.	Ft. Myers, FL	56.8%	\$ 8,320,000	62,400	\$ 830,656
Videojet Technologies						
Chicago	Videojet Technologies, Inc.	Wood Dale, IL	100%	\$ 32,630,940	250,354	\$ 3,376,746
Johnson Matthey	Johnson Matthey, Inc.	Wayne, PA	56.8%	\$ 8,000,000	130,000	\$ 854,748
Alstom Power						
Richmond (3)	Alstom Power, Inc.	Midlothian, VA	100%	\$ 11,400,000	99,057	\$ 1,213,324
Sprint	Sprint Communications Company, L.P.	Leawood, KS	56.8%	\$ 9,500,000	68,900	\$ 1,102,404
EYBL CarTex		Fountain Inn, SC				
	EYBL CarTex, Inc.		56.8%	\$ 5,085,000	169,510	\$ 550,908
Matsushita (3)	Matsushita Avionics Systems Corporation	Lake Forest, CA	100%	\$ 18,431,206	144,906	\$ 2,005,464
AT&T Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Cellular Telephone Corp.	Harrisburg, PA	100%	\$ 12,291,200	81,859	\$ 1,442,116
PwC	PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP	Tampa, FL	100%	\$ 21,127,854	130,091	\$ 2,093,382
Cort Furniture		Fountain Valley, CA				
	Cort Furniture Rental Corporation		44.0%	\$ 6,400,000	52,000	\$ 834,888
Fairchild	Fairchild Technologies U.S.A., Inc.	Fremont, CA	77.5%	\$ 8,900,000	58,424	\$ 920,144
Avaya		Oklahoma City, OK				
	Avaya, Inc.		3.7%	\$ 5,504,276	57,186	\$ 536,977
Iomega	Iomega Corporation	Ogden, UT	3.7%	\$ 5,025,000	108,250	\$ 659,868
Interlocken	ODS Technologies, L.P. and GAIAM, Inc.	Broomfield, CO	3.7%	\$ 8,275,000	51,975	\$ 1,070,515
Ohmeda	Ohmeda, Inc.	Louisville, CO	3.7%	\$ 10,325,000	106,750	\$ 1,004,520
Alstom Power						
Knoxville	Alstom Power, Inc.	Knoxville, TN	3.7%	\$ 7,900,000	84,404	\$ 1,106,520
TOTALS				\$ 1,053,500,964	7,951,248	\$ 110,025,835(5)

- (1) Dana Kalamazoo and Dana Detroit were purchased for an aggregate purchase price of \$41,950,000.
- (2) Windy Point I and Windy Point II were purchased for an aggregate purchase price of \$89,275,000.
- (3) Includes the actual costs incurred or estimated to be incurred by Wells OP to develop and construct the building in addition to the purchase price of the land.
- (4) Includes estimated costs for the planning, design, development, construction and completion of the Nissan Property.
- (5) Total annual rent does not include \$4,225,860 annual rent for Nissan Property, which does not take effect until construction of the building is completed and the tenant is occupying the building.

As of July 1, 2002, no tenant leasing our properties accounted for more than 10% of our aggregate annual rental income. As of July 1, 2002, our most substantial tenants, based on annual rental income, were SSB Realty, LLC (approximately 6.3%), Metris Direct, Inc. (approximately 5.6%), Motorola, Inc. (approximately 4.7%), and Zurich American Insurance Company, Inc. (approximately 4.6%).

Table of Contents

Geographic Diversification Table

The following table shows a list of 53 real estate investments we owned as of July 1, 2002, grouped by the state where each of our investments is located.

<u>State</u>	<u>No. of Properties</u>	<u>Aggregate Purchase Price</u>	<u>Approx. %</u>	<u>Aggregate Square Feet</u>	<u>Approx. %</u>	<u>Aggregate Annual Rent</u>	<u>Approx. %</u>
Arizona	5	\$ 86,655,000	8.2%	638,722	8.0%	\$ 9,023,417	8.2%
California	4	\$ 40,924,206	3.9%	320,336	4.0%	\$ 5,047,615	4.6%
Colorado	5	\$ 63,010,058	6.0%	483,334	6.1%	\$ 7,180,677	6.5%
Florida	6	\$ 83,452,854	7.9%	582,591	7.3%	\$ 8,243,917	7.5%
Georgia	3	\$ 70,600,000	6.7%	439,894	5.5%	\$ 8,086,981	7.4%
Illinois	3	\$ 121,905,940	11.6%	738,779	9.3%	\$ 11,566,529	10.5%
Kansas	1	\$ 9,500,000	0.9%	68,900	0.9%	\$ 1,102,404	1.0%
Massachusetts	2	\$ 81,305,274	7.7%	409,253	5.1%	\$ 10,501,699	9.5%
Michigan	4	\$ 76,015,000	7.2%	443,731	5.6%	\$ 7,503,567	6.8%
Minnesota	1	\$ 52,800,000	5.0%	300,633	3.8%	\$ 4,960,445	4.5%
New Jersey	1	\$ 33,648,156	3.0%	236,710	3.0%	\$ 3,324,428	3.0%
North Carolina	1	\$ 17,650,000	1.7%	120,000	1.5%	\$ 1,800,000	1.6%
Oklahoma	3	\$ 33,504,276	3.2%	286,786	3.6%	\$ 3,261,402	3.0%
Pennsylvania	2	\$ 20,291,200	1.9%	211,859	2.7%	\$ 2,296,864	2.1%
South Carolina	1	\$ 5,085,000	0.5%	169,510	2.1%	\$ 550,908	0.5%
Tennessee	3	\$ 53,900,000	5.1%	987,460	12.4%	\$ 5,600,433	5.1%
Texas	6	\$ 186,829,000	17.7%	1,305,443	16.4%	\$ 18,101,357*	16.5%
Utah	1	\$ 5,025,000	0.5%	108,250	1.4%	\$ 659,868	0.6%
Virginia	1	\$ 11,400,000	1.1%	99,057	1.2%	\$ 1,213,324	1.1%
Total	53	\$ 1,053,500,964	100%	7,951,248	100%	\$ 110,025,835*	100%

* Does not include \$4,225,860 annual rent from the Nissan Project, located in Irving, Texas, which is not yet completed.

Lease Expiration Table

The following table shows lease expirations during each of the next ten years for all our leases as of July 1, 2002, assuming no exercise of renewal options or termination rights:

<u>Year of Lease Expiration</u>	<u>Square Feet Expiring</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Square Feet Expiring</u>	<u>Annualized Base Rent Expiring(1)</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Annualized Base Rent</u>	<u>Wells REIT Share of Annualized Base Rent Expiring(1)</u>	<u>Percentage of Wells REIT Share of Total Annualized Base Rent</u>
---------------------------------	-----------------------------	---	---	---	---	---

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

2002	8,074	0.10%	\$ 104,408	\$ 0.09%	\$ 3,874	0.00%
2003	64,223	0.81%	1,040,723	0.95%	372,232	0.37%
2004	123,430	1.55%	2,207,263	2.01%	916,348	0.92%
2005	280,537	3.53%	3,768,626	3.43%	2,069,308	2.08%
2006	52,587	0.66%	1,354,184	1.23%	1,354,184	1.36%
2007	742,700	9.34%	11,108,693	10.10%	9,197,835	9.26%
2008	837,973	10.54%	10,490,790	9.53%	9,244,256	9.30%
2009	513,359	6.46%	7,235,244	6.58%	6,599,857	6.64%
2010	1,329,000	16.71%	19,026,036	17.29%	17,847,500	17.96%
2011	2,868,456	36.08%	39,494,347	35.90%	38,680,622	38.92%
2012-2021	1,130,909	14.22%	14,195,521	12.89%	13,088,150	13.17%
Total	7,951,248	100%	\$ 110,025,835	100%	\$ 99,374,066	100%

(1) Average monthly gross rent over the life of the lease, annualized.

Table of Contents**Joint Ventures with Affiliates**

Wells OP owns some of its properties through ownership interests in the seven joint ventures listed below. Wells OP does not have control over the operations of the joint ventures; however, it does exercise significant influence. Accordingly, investments in joint ventures are recorded for accounting purposes using the equity method.

<u>Joint Venture</u>	<u>Joint Venture Partners</u>	<u>Properties Held by Joint Venture</u>
Fund XIII-REIT Joint Venture	Wells Operating Partnership, L.P. Wells Real Estate Fund XIII, L.P.	AmeriCredit Building ADIC Buildings
Fund XII-REIT Joint Venture	Wells Operating Partnership, L.P. Wells Real Estate Fund XII, L.P.	Siemens Building AT&T Oklahoma Buildings Comdata Building
Fund XI-XII-REIT Joint Venture	Wells Operating Partnership, L.P. Wells Real Estate Fund XI, L.P. Wells Real Estate Fund XII, L.P.	EYBL CarTex Building Sprint Building Johnson Matthey Building Gartner Building
Fund IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture	Wells Operating Partnership, L.P. Wells Real Estate Fund IX, L.P. Wells Real Estate Fund X, L.P. Wells Real Estate Fund XI, L.P.	Alstom Power Knoxville Building Ohmeda Building Interlocken Building Avaya Building Iomega Building Fairchild Building
Wells/Freemont Associates Joint Venture (Freemont Joint Venture)	Wells Operating Partnership, L.P. Fund X-XI Joint Venture	
Wells/Orange County Associates Joint Venture (Orange County Joint Venture)	Wells Operating Partnership, L.P. Fund X-XI Joint Venture	Cort Furniture Building
Fund VIII-IX-REIT Joint Venture	Wells Operating Partnership, L.P. Fund VIII-IX Joint Venture	Quest Building

The Wells Fund XIII REIT Joint Venture

Wells OP and Wells Fund XIII entered into a joint venture partnership known as the Wells Fund XIII-REIT Joint Venture Partnership (XIII-REIT Joint Venture). The investment objectives of Wells Fund XIII are substantially identical to our investment objectives. As of December 31, 2001, the joint venture partners of the XIII-REIT Joint Venture had made the following contributions and held the following equity percentage interests:

<u>Joint Venture Partner</u>	<u>Capital Contributions</u>	<u>Equity Interest</u>
Wells OP	\$ 17,359,875	68.2%
Wells Fund XIII	\$ 8,491,069	31.8%

The Wells Fund XII-REIT Joint Venture

Wells OP and Wells Fund XII entered into a joint venture partnership known as the Wells Fund XII-REIT Joint Venture Partnership (XII-REIT Joint Venture). The investment objectives of Wells Fund XII are substantially identical to our investment objectives. As of December 31, 2001, the joint venture partners of the XII-REIT Joint Venture had made the following contributions and held the following equity percentage interests:

Table of Contents

<u>Joint Venture Partner</u>	<u>Capital Contributions</u>	<u>Equity Interest</u>
Wells OP	\$ 29,950,668	55.0%
Wells Fund XII	\$ 24,613,401	45.0%

The Wells Fund XI-Fund XII-REIT Joint Venture

Wells OP entered into a joint venture partnership with Wells Fund XI and Wells Fund XII known as The Wells Fund XI-Fund XII-REIT Joint Venture (XI-XII-REIT Joint Venture). The XI-XII-REIT Joint Venture was originally formed on May 1, 1999 between Wells OP and Wells Fund XI. On June 21, 1999, Wells Fund XII was admitted to the XI-XII-REIT Joint Venture as a joint venture partner. The investment objectives of Wells Fund XI and Wells Fund XII are substantially identical to our investment objectives. As of December 31, 2001, the joint venture partners of the XI-XII-REIT Joint Venture had made the following contributions and held the following equity percentage interests:

<u>Joint Venture Partner</u>	<u>Capital Contributions</u>	<u>Equity Interest</u>
Wells OP	\$ 17,641,211	56.8%
Wells Fund XI	\$ 8,131,351	26.1%
Wells Fund XII	\$ 5,300,000	17.1%

The Fund IX, Fund X, Fund XI and REIT Joint Venture

Wells OP entered into a joint venture partnership with Wells Fund IX, Wells Fund X and Wells Fund XI, known as The Fund IX, Fund X, Fund XI and REIT Joint Venture (IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture). The IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture was originally formed on March 20, 1997 between Wells Fund IX and Wells Fund X. On June 11, 1998, Wells OP and Wells Fund XI were admitted as joint venture partners to the IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture. The investment objectives of Wells Fund IX, Wells Fund X and Wells Fund XI are substantially identical to our investment objectives. As of December 31, 2001, the joint venture partners of the IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture had made the following contributions and held the following equity percentage interests:

<u>Joint Venture Partner</u>	<u>Capital Contributions</u>	<u>Equity Interest</u>
Wells OP	\$ 1,421,466	3.7%
Wells Fund IX	\$ 14,982,435	39.1%
Wells Fund X	\$ 18,501,185	48.4%
Wells Fund XI	\$ 3,357,436	8.8%

The Fremont Joint Venture

Wells OP entered into a joint venture partnership known as Wells/Fremont Associates (Fremont Joint Venture) with Fund X and Fund XI Associates (X-XI Joint Venture), a joint venture between Wells Fund X and Wells Fund XI. The purpose of the Fremont Joint Venture is the acquisition, ownership, leasing, operation, sale and management of the Fairchild Building. As of December 31, 2001, the joint venture partners of the Fremont Joint Venture had made the following contributions and held the following equity percentage interests:

<u>Joint Venture Partner</u>	<u>Capital Contributions</u>	<u>Equity Interest</u>
Wells OP	\$ 6,983,111	77.5%
X-XI Joint Venture	\$ 2,000,000	22.5%

Table of Contents*The Cort Joint Venture*

Wells OP entered into a joint venture partnership with the X-XI Joint Venture known as Wells/Orange County Associates (Cort Joint Venture) for the purpose of the acquisition, ownership, leasing, operation, sale and management of the Cort Furniture Building. As of December 31, 2001, the joint venture partners of the Cort Joint Venture had made the following contributions and held the following equity percentage interests:

<u>Joint Venture Partner</u>	<u>Capital Contributions</u>	<u>Equity Interest</u>
Wells OP	\$ 2,871,430	43.7%
X-XI Joint Venture	\$ 3,695,000	56.3%

The Wells Fund VIII-Fund IX-REIT Joint Venture

Wells OP entered into a joint venture partnership with the Fund VIII-IX Joint Venture known as the Wells Fund VIII-Fund IX-REIT Joint Venture (VIII-IX-REIT Joint Venture) for the purpose of the ownership, leasing, operation, sale and management of the Quest Building. The investment objectives of Wells Fund VIII and Wells Fund IX are substantially identical to our investment objectives. As of December 31, 2001, the joint venture partners of the VIII-IX-REIT Joint Venture had made the following contributions and held the following equity percentage interests:

<u>Joint Venture Partner</u>	<u>Capital Contributions</u>	<u>Equity Interest</u>
Wells OP	\$ 1,282,111	15.8%
Wells Fund VIII	\$ 3,608,109	46.1%
Wells Fund IX	\$ 3,620,316	38.1%

General Provisions of Joint Venture Agreements

Wells OP is acting as the initial Administrative Venturer of each of the joint ventures described above and, as such, is responsible for establishing policies and operating procedures with respect to the business and affairs of each of these joint ventures. However, approval of the other joint venture partners will be required for any major decision or any action that materially affects these joint ventures or their real property investments.

The XIII-REIT Joint Venture Agreement, the XII-REIT Joint Venture Agreement, the XI-XII-REIT Joint Venture Agreement and the IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture Agreement each allow any joint venture partner to make a buy/sell election upon receipt by any other joint venture partner of a bona fide third-party offer to purchase all or substantially all of the properties or the last remaining property of the respective joint venture. Upon receipt of notice of such third-party offer, each joint venture partner must elect within 30 days after receipt of the notice to either (1) purchase the entire interest of each venture partner that wishes to accept the offer on the same terms and conditions as the third-party offer to purchase, or (2) consent to the sale of the properties or last remaining property pursuant to such third-party offer.

Table of Contents

Description of Properties

ISS Atlanta Buildings

Wells OP acquired the ISS Atlanta Buildings on July 1, 2002 for a purchase price of \$40,500,000. The ISS Atlanta Buildings, which were built in 2001, consist of two five-story buildings containing a total of 238,600 rentable square feet located in Atlanta, Georgia and were acquired by assigning to Wells OP an existing ground lease with the Development Authority of Fulton County (Development Authority). Fee simple title to the land upon which the ISS Atlanta Buildings are located is held by the Development Authority, which issued Development Authority of Fulton County Taxable Revenue Bonds (Bonds) totaling \$32,500,000 in connection with the construction of these buildings. The Bonds, which entitle Wells OP to certain real property tax abatement benefits, were also assigned to Wells OP at the closing. Fee title interest to the land will be transferred to Wells OP upon payment of the outstanding balance on the Bonds, either upon a prepayment by Wells OP or at the expiration of the ground lease on December 1, 2015.

The entire rentable area of the ISS Atlanta Buildings is leased to Internet Security Systems, Inc., a Georgia corporation (ISS). The ISS Atlanta lease is guaranteed by the parent of ISS, Internet Security Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation (ISS, Inc.), whose shares are traded on NASDAQ. ISS, Inc. has operations throughout America, Asia, Australia, Europe and the Middle East. ISS, Inc. provides computer security solutions to networks, servers and desktop computers for organizational customers, including corporate customers and governmental units. ISS, Inc. reported a net worth, as of March 31, 2002, of approximately \$435 million.

The ISS Atlanta lease is a net lease that commenced in November 2000 and expires in May 2013. The current annual base rent payable under the ISS Atlanta lease is \$4,623,445. ISS, at its option, has the right to extend the initial term of its lease for three additional five-year periods at 95% of the then-current market rental rate. In addition, ISS has obtained an \$8,000,000 letter of credit from First Union National Bank to guarantee payments under the lease.

MFS Phoenix Building

Wells OP purchased the MFS Phoenix Building on June 5, 2002 for a purchase price of \$25,800,000. The MFS Phoenix Building, which was built in 2000, is a three-story office building containing 148,605 rentable square feet located in Phoenix, Arizona.

The entire MFS Phoenix Building is leased to Massachusetts Financial Services Company (MFS). MFS is a Massachusetts corporation having its corporate headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts with offices in London, Tokyo and Singapore. MFS is an investment management firm which offers annuities, institutional products, insurance services, mutual funds and retirement products. MFS reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$440 million.

The MFS Phoenix lease is a net lease that commenced in April 2001 and expires in July 2011. The current annual base rent payable under the MFS Phoenix lease is \$2,347,959. MFS, at its option, has the right to extend the initial term of its lease for two additional five-year periods at 95% of the then-current market rental rate.

Table of Contents

TRW Denver Building

Wells OP purchased the TRW Denver Building on May 29, 2002 for a purchase price of \$21,060,000. The TRW Denver Building, which was built in 1997, is a three-story office building containing 108,240 rentable square feet located in Aurora, Colorado.

The entire TRW Denver Building is leased to TRW, Inc. (TRW), a global technology, manufacturing and service company that provides advanced technology, systems and services to customers worldwide. TRW reported a net worth, as of March 31, 2002, of approximately \$2.24 billion.

The TRW Denver lease is a net lease that commenced in October 1997 and expires in September 2007. The current annual base rent payable under the TRW Denver lease is \$2,870,709. TRW, at its option, has the right to extend the initial term of its lease for two additional five-year periods at 95% of the then-current market rental rate.

Agilent Boston Building

Wells OP purchased the Agilent Boston Building on May 3, 2002 for a purchase price of \$31,742,274. The Agilent Boston Building, which was built in 2002, is a three-story office building containing 174,585 rentable square feet located in Boxborough, Massachusetts. Wells OP assumed the obligation, as the landlord under the Agilent Boston lease described below, to provide Agilent \$3,407,496 for tenant improvements.

The entire Agilent Boston Building is leased to Agilent Technologies, Inc. (Agilent). Agilent is a major producer of measuring and monitoring devices, semiconductor products and chemical analysis tools for communications and life sciences companies, such as Internet service providers and biopharmaceutical companies. Agilent reported a net worth, as of January 31, 2002, of approximately \$5.4 billion.

The Agilent Boston lease is a net lease that commenced in September 2001 and expires in September 2011. The current annual base rent payable under the Agilent Boston lease is \$3,578,993. Agilent, at its option, has the right to extend the initial term of its lease for one additional five-year period at a rate equal to the greater of (1) the then-current market rental rate, or (2) 75% of the annual base rent in the final year of the initial term of the Agilent Boston lease. In addition, Agilent may terminate the lease at the end of the seventh lease year by paying a \$4,190,000 termination fee.

Experian/TRW Buildings

Wells OP purchased the Experian/TRW Buildings on May 1, 2002 for a purchase price of \$35,150,000. The Experian/TRW Buildings, which were built in 1982 and 1993, respectively, are two two-story office buildings containing a total of 292,700 rentable square feet located in Allen, Texas.

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

The Experian/TRW Buildings are both leased to Experian Information Solutions, Inc. (Experian). Experian is an information services company that uses decision-making software and comprehensive databases of information on consumers, businesses, motor vehicles and property to provide companies with information about their customers. TRW, the original tenant on the Experian/TRW lease, assigned its interest in the Experian/TRW lease to Experian in 1996 but remains as an obligor of the Experian/TRW lease.

Table of Contents

The Experian/TRW lease is a net lease that commenced in April 1993 and expires in October 2010. The current annual base rent payable under the Experian lease is \$3,438,277. Experian, at its option, has the right to extend the initial term of its lease for four additional five-year periods at 95% of the then-current market rental rate.

BellSouth Ft. Lauderdale Building

Wells OP purchased the BellSouth Ft. Lauderdale Building on April 18, 2002 for a purchase price of \$6,850,000. The BellSouth Ft. Lauderdale Building, which was built in 2001, is a one-story office building containing 47,400 rentable square feet located in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

The entire BellSouth Ft. Lauderdale Building is leased to BellSouth Advertising and Publishing Corporation (BellSouth Advertising). BellSouth Advertising is a major provider of print directories throughout the southeastern states and markets served by BellSouth Corporation, which is the parent company of BellSouth Advertising.

The BellSouth Advertising lease is a net lease that commenced in July 2001 and expires in July 2008. The current annual base rent payable under the BellSouth Advertising lease is \$747,033. BellSouth Advertising, at its option, has the right to extend the initial term of its lease for three additional five-year periods at 95% of the then-current market rental rate.

Agilent Atlanta Building

Wells OP purchased the Agilent Atlanta Building on April 18, 2002 for a purchase price of \$15,100,000. The Agilent Atlanta Building, which was built in 2001, is a two-story office building containing 101,207 rentable square feet located in Alpharetta, Georgia.

Agilent leases 66,811 rentable square feet of the Agilent Atlanta Building (66%). The Agilent Atlanta lease commenced in September 2001 and expires in September 2011. The initial annual base rent payable under the Agilent Atlanta lease is \$1,344,905. Agilent, at its option, has the right to extend the initial term of its lease for either (1) one additional three-year period, or (2) one additional five-year period, at the then-current market rental rate. In addition, Agilent may terminate the lease at the end of the seventh lease year by paying a \$763,650 termination fee.

Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V. (Philips) leases the remaining 34,396 rentable square feet of the Agilent Atlanta Building (34%). Philips is one of the world's largest electronics companies and is a global leader in color television sets, lighting, electric shavers, medical diagnostic imaging, patient monitoring and one-chip TV products. Philips reported a net worth, as of March 31, 2002, of approximately \$16.47 billion.

The Philips lease commenced in September 2001 and expires in September 2011. The current annual base rent payable under the Philips lease is \$692,391. Philips, at its option, has the right to extend the initial term of its lease for either (1) one additional three-year period, or (2) one additional five-year period, at the then-current market rental rate. In addition, Philips may terminate the lease at the end of the seventh lease year by paying a \$393,146 termination fee.

Table of Contents

Travelers Express Denver Buildings

Wells OP purchased the Travelers Express Denver Buildings on April 10, 2002 for a purchase price of \$10,395,845. The Travelers Express Denver Buildings, which were built in 2002, are two connected one-story office buildings containing 68,165 rentable square feet located in Lakewood, Colorado.

The Travelers Express Denver Buildings are leased to Travelers Express Company, Inc. (Travelers). Travelers is the largest money order processor and second largest money-wire transfer company in the nation, processing more than 775 million transactions per year, including official checks and share drafts for financial institutions. Travelers is a wholly owned subsidiary of Viad Corporation, a public company whose shares are traded on the NYSE.

The Travelers lease commenced in April 2002 and expires in March 2012. The current annual base rent payable under the Travelers lease is \$1,012,250. Travelers, at its option, has the right to extend the initial term of its lease for two additional five-year periods. The annual base rent for the first three years of the first renewal term shall be \$19 per rentable square foot and the annual base rent for the last two years shall be \$20.50 per rentable square foot. The annual base rent for the second renewal term shall be at the then-current market rental rate for each year of the renewal term. In addition, Travelers may terminate the Travelers lease at the end of the seventh lease year by paying a termination fee of \$1,040,880. Travelers also has the right to expand the Travelers Express Denver Buildings between 10% and 20% by providing notice on or before May 1, 2004, subject to certain limitations and potential acceleration.

Dana Corporation Buildings

Wells OP purchased the Dana Corporation Buildings on March 29, 2001 for a purchase price of \$41,950,000. The Dana Kalamazoo Building, which was built in 1999, is a two-story office and industrial building containing 147,004 rentable square feet located in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The Dana Detroit Building, which was built in 1999, is a three-story office and research and development building containing 112,480 rentable square feet located in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Wells OP purchased the Dana Corporation Buildings by purchasing all of the membership interests in two Delaware limited liability companies each of which owned title to one of the buildings.

The Dana Corporation Buildings are leased to Dana Corporation (Dana). Dana is one of the world's largest suppliers of components, modules and complete systems to global vehicle manufacturers and their related aftermarkets. Dana operates approximately 300 major facilities in 34 countries and employs approximately 70,000 people. Dana reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$1.9 billion.

The Dana Kalamazoo lease commenced in October 2001 and expires in October 2021. The current annual base rent payable under the Dana Kalamazoo lease is \$1,842,800. Dana, at its option, has the right to extend the initial term of its lease for six additional five-year periods at the then-current market rental rate. Dana may terminate the lease at any time during the initial lease term after the sixth lease year and before the 19th lease year, subject to certain conditions.

The Dana Detroit lease commenced in October 2001 and expires in October 2021. The current annual base rent payable under the Dana Detroit lease is \$2,330,600. Dana, at its option, has the right to extend the initial term of its lease for six additional five-year periods at the then-current market rental rate. Dana may terminate the lease at any time during the initial lease term after the 11th lease year, subject to certain conditions.

Table of Contents

Novartis Atlanta Building

Wells OP purchased the Novartis Atlanta Building on March 28, 2002 for a purchase price of \$15,000,000. The Novartis Atlanta Building, which was built in 2001, is a four-story office building containing 100,087 rentable square feet located in Duluth, Georgia.

The Novartis Atlanta Building is leased to Novartis Ophthalmics, Inc. (Novartis). The Novartis lease is guaranteed by Novartis' parent company, Novartis Corporation. Novartis Corporation, a public company whose shares are traded on the NYSE, is a world leader in healthcare with core businesses in pharmaceuticals, consumer health, generics, eye-care and animal health. Novartis Corporation reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$28.1 billion.

The Novartis lease commenced in August 2001 and expires in July 2011. The current annual base rent payable under the Novartis lease is \$1,426,240. Novartis, at its option, has the right to extend the initial term of its lease for three additional five-year periods at the then-current market rental rate. In addition, Novartis may terminate the lease at the end of the fifth lease year by paying a \$1,500,000 termination fee.

Transocean Houston Building

Wells OP purchased the Transocean Houston Building on March 15, 2002 for a purchase price of \$22,000,000. The Transocean Houston Building, which was built in 1999, is a six-story office building containing 155,991 rentable square feet located in Houston, Texas.

Transocean Deepwater Offshore Drilling, Inc. (Transocean) leases 103,260 rentable square feet (67%) of the Transocean Houston Building. Transocean is an offshore drilling company specializing in technically demanding segments of the offshore drilling industry. The Transocean lease is guaranteed by Transocean Sedco Forex, Inc., one of the world's largest offshore drilling companies whose shares are traded on the NASDAQ. Transocean Sedco Forex, Inc. reported a net worth, as of September 30, 2001, of approximately \$10.86 billion.

The Transocean lease commenced in December 2001 and expires in March 2011. Transocean, at its option, has the right to extend the initial term of its lease for either (1) two additional five-year periods, or (2) one additional ten-year period, at the then-current market rental rate. In addition, Transocean has an expansion option and a right of first refusal for up to an additional 52,731 rentable square feet. The current annual base rent payable under the Transocean lease is \$2,110,035.

Newpark Drilling Fluids, Inc. (Newpark) leases the remaining 52,731 rentable square feet (33%) of the Transocean Houston Building. Newpark is a full service drilling fluids processing, management and waste disposal company. The Newpark lease is guaranteed by Newpark Resources, Inc., which provides drilling fluids services to the oil and gas production industry, primarily in North America. Newpark Resources, Inc. reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$294 million.

The Newpark lease commenced in August 1999 and expires in October 2009. The current annual base rent payable for the Newpark lease is \$1,153,227.

Table of Contents

Arthur Andersen Building

Wells OP purchased the Arthur Andersen Building on January 11, 2002 for a purchase price of \$21,400,000. The Arthur Andersen Building, which was built in 1999, is a three-story office building containing 157,700 rentable square feet located in Sarasota, Florida. Wells OP purchased the Arthur Andersen Building from Sarasota Haskell, LLC, which is not in any way affiliated with the Wells REIT, our advisor, Wells Capital, or Arthur Andersen, LLP, the tenant at the property.

The Arthur Andersen Building is leased to Arthur Andersen LLP (Andersen). In June 2002, Andersen was tried and convicted of federal obstruction of justice charges arising from its involvement as auditors for Enron Corporation. There may be a substantial risk that events arising out of this conviction or other events relating to the financial condition of Andersen could adversely affect the ability of Andersen to fulfill its obligations as tenant under the Andersen lease. The Andersen lease commenced in November 1998 and expires in October 2009. Andersen has the right to extend the initial 10-year term of this lease for two additional five-year periods at 90% of the then-current market rental rate. The current annual base rent payable under the Andersen lease is \$1,988,454.

Andersen has the option to purchase the Arthur Andersen Building for a purchase price of \$23,250,000 prior to the end of the fifth lease year. In addition, Andersen has the option to purchase the Arthur Andersen Building for a purchase price of \$25,148,000 after the fifth lease year and prior to the expiration of the current lease term.

Windy Point Buildings

Wells OP purchased the Windy Point Buildings on December 31, 2001 for a purchase price of \$89,275,000. The Windy Point Buildings, which were built in 1999 and 2001, respectively, consist of a seven-story office building containing 188,391 rentable square feet (Windy Point I) and an eleven-story office building containing 300,034 rentable square feet (Windy Point II) located in Schaumburg, Illinois.

The Windy Point Buildings are subject to a 20-year annexation agreement originally executed on December 12, 1995 with the Village of Schaumburg, Illinois (Annexation Agreement). The Annexation Agreement covers a 235-acre tract of land that includes a portion of the site of the Windy Point Buildings parking facilities relating to the potential construction of a new eastbound on-ramp interchange for I-90. Wells OP issued a \$382,556 letter of credit pursuant to the request of the Village of Schaumburg, Illinois, representing the estimated costs of demolition and restoration of constructed parking and landscaped areas and protecting pipelines in connection with the potential construction. The obligation to maintain the letter of credit will continue until the costs of demolition and restoration are paid if the project proceeds or until the Annexation Agreement expires in December 2015. If Wells OP is unable to restore the parking spaces due to structural issues related to the utilities underground, Wells OP would then be required to construct a new parking garage on the site to accommodate the parking needs of its tenants. The cost for this construction is currently estimated at approximately \$3,581,000. In addition, if the interchange is constructed, Wells OP will be required to pay for its share of the costs for widening Meacham Road as part of the project, which potential obligation is currently estimated to be approximately \$288,300.

Table of Contents***Windy Point I building***

The Windy Point I building is currently leased as follows:

<u>Tenant</u>	<u>Rentable Sq. Ft.</u>	<u>Percentage of Building</u>
TCI Great Lakes, Inc.	129,157	69%
The Apollo Group, Inc.	28,322	15%
Global Knowledge Network, Inc.	22,028	12%
Multiple Tenants	8,884	4%

TCI Great Lakes, Inc. (TCI) occupies 129,157 rentable square feet (69%) of the Windy Point I building. The TCI lease commenced in December 1999 and expires in November 2009. TCI has the right to extend the initial 10-year term of its lease for two additional five-year periods at 95% of the then-current market rental rate. TCI may terminate certain portions of the TCI lease on the last day of the seventh lease year by providing 12 months prior written notice and paying Wells OP a termination fee of approximately \$4,119,500. The current annual base rent payable under the TCI lease is \$2,067,204.

TCI is a wholly-owned subsidiary of AT&T Broadband. AT&T Broadband provides basic cable and digital television services, as well as high-speed Internet access and cable telephony, with video-on-demand and other advanced services.

The Apollo Group, Inc. (Apollo) leases 28,322 rentable square feet (15%) of the Windy Point I building. The Apollo lease commenced in April 2002 and expires in June 2008. Apollo has the right to extend the initial term of its lease for one additional five-year period at 95% of the then-current market rental rate. The current annual base rent payable under the Apollo lease is \$477,226.

Apollo is an Arizona corporation having its corporate headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona. Apollo provides higher education programs to working adults through its subsidiaries, the University of Phoenix, Inc., the Institute for Professional Development, the College for Financial Planning Institutes Corporation and Western International University, Inc. Apollo offers educational programs and services at 58 campuses and 102 learning centers in 36 states, Puerto Rico, and Vancouver, British Columbia. Apollo reported a net worth, as of February 28, 2002, of approximately \$559 million.

Global Knowledge Network, Inc. (Global) leases 22,028 rentable square feet (12%) of the Windy Point I building. The Global lease commenced in May 2000 and expires in April 2010. Global has the right to extend the initial 10-year term of its lease for one additional five-year period at the then-current market rental rate. Wells OP has the right to terminate the Global lease on December 31, 2005 by giving Global written notice on or before April 30, 2005. The current annual base rent payable under the Global lease is \$393,776.

Global is a privately held corporation with its corporate headquarters in Cary, North Carolina and international offices in Tokyo, London and Singapore. Global is owned by New York-based investment firm Welsh, Carson, Anderson and Stowe, a New York limited partnership which acts as a private equity investor in information services, telecommunications and healthcare. Global provides information technology education solutions and certification programs, offering more than 700 courses in more than 60 international locations and in 15 languages. Global has

posted a \$100,000 letter of credit as security for the Global lease.

Windy Point II building

Zurich American Insurance Company, Inc. (Zurich) leases the entire 300,034 rentable square feet of the Windy Point II building. The Zurich lease commenced in September 2001 and expires in August 2011. Zurich has the right to extend the initial 10-year term of its lease for two additional five-year

Table of Contents

periods at 95% of the then-current market rental rate. The current annual base rent payable under the Zurich lease is \$5,091,577.

Zurich is headquartered in Schaumburg, Illinois and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zurich Financial Services Group (ZFSG). ZFSG, which has its corporate headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland, is a leading provider of financial protection and wealth accumulation solutions for some 35 million customers in over 60 countries. Zurich provides commercial property-casualty insurance and serves the multinational, middle market and small business sectors in the United States and Canada.

Zurich has the right to terminate the Zurich lease for up to 25% of the rentable square feet leased by Zurich at the end of the fifth lease year. If Zurich terminates a portion of the Zurich lease, it will be required to pay a termination fee to Wells OP equal to three months of the current monthly rent for the terminated space plus additional costs related to the space leased by Zurich. In addition, Zurich may terminate the entire Zurich lease at the end of the seventh lease year by providing Wells OP 18 months prior written notice and paying Wells OP a termination fee of approximately \$8,625,000.

Convergys Building

Wells OP purchased the Convergys Building on December 21, 2001 for a purchase price of \$13,255,000. The Convergys Building, which was built in 2001, is a two-story office building containing 100,000 rentable square feet located in Tamarac, Florida.

The Convergys Building is leased to Convergys Customer Management Group, Inc. (Convergys). The Convergys lease is guaranteed by Convergys parent company, Convergys Corporation, which is an Ohio corporation whose shares are traded on the NYSE having its corporate headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio. Convergys Corporation provides outsourced billing and customer care services in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Israel and Europe. Convergys Corporation reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$1.23 billion.

The Convergys lease commenced in September 2001 and expires in September 2011. Convergys has the right to extend the initial 10-year term of this lease for three additional five-year periods at 95% of the then-current market rental rate. Convergys may terminate the Convergys lease at the end of the seventh lease year (September 30, 2008) by providing 12 months prior written notice and paying Wells OP a termination fee of approximately \$1,341,000. The current annual base rent payable under the Convergys lease is \$1,248,192.

ADIC Buildings

Wells Fund XIII-REIT Joint Venture purchased the ADIC Buildings and an undeveloped 3.43 acre tract of land adjacent to the ADIC Buildings (Additional ADIC Land) on December 21, 2001 for a purchase price of \$12,954,213. The ADIC Buildings, which were built in 2001, consist of two connected one-story office and assembly buildings containing a total of 148,204 rentable square feet located in Parker, Colorado.

The ADIC Buildings are currently leased to Advanced Digital Information Corporation (ADIC), which lease does not include the Additional ADIC Land. ADIC is a Washington corporation whose shares are traded on NASDAQ having its corporate headquarters in Redmond, Washington and regional management centers in Englewood, Colorado; Böhmenkirch, Germany; and Paris, France. ADIC manufactures data

storage systems and specialized storage management software and distributes these products through its relationships with original equipment manufacturers such as IBM, Sony, Fujitsu,

Table of Contents

Siemens and Hewlett-Packard. ADIC reported a net worth, as of January 31, 2002, of approximately \$335 million.

The ADIC lease commenced in December 2001 and expires in December 2011. ADIC has the right to extend the term of its lease for two additional five-year periods at the then-current fair market rental rate for the first year of each five-year extension. The annual base rent will increase 2.5% for each subsequent year of each five-year extension. The current annual base rent payable under the ADIC lease is \$1,222,683.

Lucent Building

Wells OP purchased the Lucent Building from Lucent Technologies, Inc. (Lucent Technologies) in a sale-lease back transaction on September 28, 2001 for a purchase price of \$17,650,000. The Lucent Building, which was built in 1999, is a four-story office building with 120,000 rentable square feet, which includes a 17.34 acre undeveloped tract of land, located in Cary, North Carolina.

The Lucent Building is leased to Lucent Technologies, whose shares are traded on the NYSE and has its corporate headquarters in Murray Hill, New Jersey. Lucent Technologies designs, develops and manufactures communications systems, software and other products. Lucent Technologies reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$10.6 billion.

The Lucent lease commenced in September 2001 and expires in September 2011. Lucent Technologies has the right to extend the term of this lease for three additional five-year periods at the then-current fair market rental rate. The current annual base rent payable under the Lucent lease is \$1,800,000.

Ingram Micro Building

On September 27, 2001, Wells OP acquired a ground leasehold interest in a 701,819 square foot distribution facility located in Millington, Tennessee, pursuant to a Bond Real Property Lease dated as of December 20, 1995 (Bond Lease). The ground leasehold interest under the Bond Lease, along with the Bond and the Bond Deed of Trust, were purchased from Ingram Micro L.P. (Ingram) in a sale-lease back transaction for a purchase price of \$21,050,000. The Bond Lease expires in December 2026. Construction of the Ingram Micro Building was completed in 1997.

Fee simple title to the land upon which the Ingram Micro Building is located is held by the Industrial Development Board of the City of Millington, Tennessee (Industrial Development Board), which originally entered into the Bond Lease with Lease Plan North America, Inc. (Lease Plan). The Industrial Development Board issued an Industrial Development Revenue Note Ingram Micro L.P. Series 1995 (Bond) in a principal amount of \$22,000,000 to Lease Plan in order to finance the construction of the Ingram Micro Building. The Bond is secured by a Fee Construction Mortgage Deed of Trust and Assignment of Rents and Leases (Bond Deed of Trust) executed by the Industrial Development Board for the benefit of Lease Plan. Lease Plan assigned to Ingram its ground leasehold interest in the Ingram Micro Building under the Bond Lease. Lease Plan also assigned all of its rights and interest in the Bond and the Bond Deed of Trust to Ingram.

Wells OP also acquired the Bond and the Bond Deed of Trust from Ingram at closing. Beginning in 2006, Wells OP has the option under the Bond Lease to purchase the land underlying the Ingram Micro Building from the Industrial Development Board for \$100 plus satisfaction of the

indebtedness evidenced by the Bond which, as set forth above, was acquired and is currently held by Wells OP.

Ingram Micro, Inc. (Micro) is the general partner of Ingram and a guarantor on the Ingram lease. Micro, whose shares are traded on the NYSE, has its corporate headquarters in Santa Ana, California.

Table of Contents

Micro provides technology products and supply chain management services through wholesale distribution. It targets three different market segments, including corporate resellers, direct and consumer marketers, and value-added resellers. Micro's worldwide business consists of approximately 14,000 associates and operations in 36 countries. Micro reported a net worth, as of December 29, 2001, of approximately \$1.87 billion.

The Ingram lease has a current term of 10 years with two successive options to extend for 10 years each at an annual rate equal to the greater of (1) 95% of the then-current fair market rental rate, or (2) the annual rental payment effective for the final year of the term immediately prior to such extension. Annual rent, as determined for each extended term, is also increased by 15% beginning in the 61st month of each extended term. The current annual base rent payable for the Ingram lease is \$2,035,275.

Nissan Property

Purchase of the Nissan Property. The Nissan Property is a build-to-suit property located in Irving, Texas which we purchased on September 19, 2001 for a purchase price of \$5,545,700. We commenced construction on a three-story office building containing approximately 268,000 rentable square feet (Nissan Project) in January 2002. Wells OP obtained a construction loan in the amount of \$32,400,000 from Bank of America, N.A. (BOA), which is more particularly described in the Real Estate Loans section of the prospectus, to fund the construction of a building on the Nissan Project.

Wells OP entered into a development agreement, an architect agreement and a design and build agreement to construct the Nissan Project on the Nissan Property.

Development Agreement. Wells OP entered into a development agreement (Development Agreement) with Champion Partners, Ltd., a Texas limited partnership (Developer), as the exclusive development manager to supervise, manage and coordinate the planning, design, construction and completion of the Nissan Project. As compensation for the services to be rendered by the Developer under the Development Agreement, Wells OP is paying a development fee of \$1,250,000. The fee is due and payable ratably as the construction and development of the Nissan Project is completed.

We anticipate that the aggregate of all costs and expenses to be incurred by Wells OP with respect to the acquisition of the Nissan Property and the planning, design, development, construction and completion of the Nissan Project will total approximately \$42,259,000. Under the terms of the Development Agreement, the Developer has agreed that in the event that the total of all such costs and expenses exceeds \$42,258,600, subject to certain adjustments, the amount of fees payable to the Developer shall be reduced by the amount of any such excess.

Construction Agreement. Wells OP entered into a design and build construction agreement (Construction Agreement) with Thos. S. Byrne, Inc. (Contractor) for the construction of the Nissan Project. The Contractor is based in Ft. Worth, Texas and specializes in commercial, industrial and high-end residential buildings. The Contractor commenced operations in 1923 and has completed over 200 projects for a total of approximately 60 clients. The Contractor is presently engaged in the construction of over 20 projects with a total construction value of in excess of \$235 million.

The Construction Agreement provides that Wells OP will pay the Contractor a maximum of \$25,326,017 for the construction of the Nissan Project that includes all estimated fees and costs including the architect fees. The Contractor will be responsible for all costs of labor, materials,

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

construction equipment and machinery necessary for completion of the Nissan Project. In addition, the Contractor will be required to secure and pay for any additional business licenses, tap fees and building permits which may be necessary for construction of the Nissan Project.

Table of Contents

Nissan Lease. The Nissan Property is leased to Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation (Nissan), a California corporation with its corporate headquarters in Torrance, California. Nissan is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nissan North America, Inc. (NNA), a guarantor of Nissan's lease. NNA is a California corporation, with headquarters in Gardena, California. NNA handles the North American business sector of its Japanese parent, Nissan Motor Company, Ltd. NNA's business activities include design, development, manufacturing and marketing of Nissan vehicles in North America. As a subsidiary of NNA, Nissan purchases retail and lease contracts from, and provides wholesale inventory and mortgage loan financing to, Nissan and Infiniti retailers.

The Nissan lease will extend 10 years beyond the rent commencement date. Construction on the building began in January 2002 and is expected to be completed by December 2003. The rent commencement date will occur shortly after completion. Nissan has the right to extend the initial 10-year term of this lease for an additional two years, upon written notice. Nissan also has the right to extend the lease for two additional five-year periods at 95% of the then-current market rental rate, upon written notice. The annual base rent payable for the Nissan lease beginning on the rent commencement date is expected to be \$4,225,860.

IKON Buildings

Wells OP purchased the IKON Buildings on September 7, 2001 for a purchase price of \$20,650,000. The IKON Buildings, which were built in 2000, consist of two one-story office buildings aggregating 157,790 rentable square feet located in Houston, Texas.

The IKON Buildings are leased to IKON Office Solutions, Inc. (IKON). IKON provides business communication products such as copiers and printers, as well as services such as distributed printing, facilities management, network design, e-business development and technology training. IKON's customers include various sized businesses, professional firms and government agencies. IKON distributes products manufactured by companies such as Microsoft, IBM, Canon, Novell and Hewlett-Packard. IKON reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$1.43 billion.

The IKON lease commenced in May 2000 and expires in April 2010. IKON has the right to extend the term of this lease for two additional five-year periods at the then-current fair market rental rate. The current annual base rent payable for the IKON lease is \$2,015,767.

State Street Building

Wells OP purchased the State Street Building on July 30, 2001 for a purchase price of \$49,563,000. The State Street Building, which was built in 1990, is a seven-story office building with 234,668 rentable square feet located in Quincy, Massachusetts.

The State Street Building is leased to SSB Realty, LLC (SSB Realty). SSB Realty is a wholly-owned subsidiary of State Street Corporation, a Massachusetts corporation (State Street). State Street, a guarantor of the SSB Realty lease, is a world leader in providing financial services to investment managers, corporations, public pension funds, unions, not-for-profit organizations and individuals. State Street's services range from investment research and professional investment management to trading and brokerage services to fund accounting and administration. State Street reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$3.8 billion.

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

The SSB Realty lease commenced in February 2001 and expires in March 2011. SSB has the right to extend the term of this lease for one additional five-year period at the then-current fair market rental rate. Pursuant to the SSB Realty lease, Wells OP is obligated to provide SSB Realty an allowance of up to

Table of Contents

approximately \$2,112,000 for tenant, building and architectural improvements. The current annual base rent payable for the SSB Realty lease is \$6,922,706.

AmeriCredit Building

The XIII-REIT Joint Venture purchased the AmeriCredit Building on July 16, 2001 for a purchase price of \$12,500,000. The AmeriCredit Building, which was built in 2001, is a two-story office building containing 85,000 rentable square feet located in Orange Park, Florida.

The AmeriCredit Building is leased to AmeriCredit Financial Services Corporation (AmeriCredit). AmeriCredit is wholly-owned by, and serves as the primary operating subsidiary for, AmeriCredit Corp., a Texas corporation whose common stock is publicly traded on the NYSE. AmeriCredit Corp. is the guarantor of the lease. AmeriCredit is the world's largest independent middle-market automobile finance company. AmeriCredit purchases loans made by franchised and select independent dealers to consumers buying late model used and, to a lesser extent, new automobiles. AmeriCredit Corp. reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$1.2 billion.

The AmeriCredit lease commenced in June 2001 and expires in May 2011. AmeriCredit has the right to extend the AmeriCredit lease for two additional five-year periods of time. Each extension option must be exercised by giving written notice to the landlord at least 12 months prior to the expiration date of the then-current lease term. The monthly base rent payable for each extended term of the AmeriCredit lease will be equal to 95% of the then-current market rate. The AmeriCredit lease contains a termination option that may be exercised by AmeriCredit effective as of the end of the seventh lease year and requires AmeriCredit to pay the joint venture a termination payment estimated at approximately \$1.9 million. AmeriCredit also has an expansion option for an additional 15,000 square feet of office space and 120 parking spaces. AmeriCredit may exercise this expansion option at any time during the first seven lease years. The current annual base rent payable under the AmeriCredit lease is \$1,336,200.

Comdata Building

The XII-REIT Joint Venture purchased the Comdata Building on May 15, 2001 for a purchase price of \$24,950,000. The Comdata Building, which was built in 1989 and expanded in 1997, is a three-story office building containing 201,237 rentable square feet located in Brentwood, Tennessee.

The Comdata Building is leased to Comdata Network, Inc. (Comdata). Comdata is a leading provider of transaction processing and information services to the transportation and other industries. Comdata provides trucking companies with fuel cards, electronic cash access, permit and licensing services, routing software, driver relationship services and vehicle escorts, among other services. Comdata provides these services to over 400,000 drivers, 7,000 truck stop service centers and 500 terminal fueling locations. Ceridian Corporation, the lease guarantor, is one of North America's leading information services companies that serves the human resources and transportation markets. Ceridian and its subsidiaries generate, process and distribute data for customers and help customers develop systems plans and software to perform these functions internally. Ceridian Corporation reported a net worth, as of September 30, 2001, of approximately \$1.1 billion.

The Comdata lease commenced in April 1997 and expires in May 2016. Comdata has the right to extend the Comdata lease for one additional five-year period of time at a rate equal to the greater of the base rent of the final year of the initial term or 90% of the then-current fair market rental rate. The current annual base rent payable for the Comdata lease is \$2,458,638.

Table of Contents

AT&T Oklahoma Buildings

The XII-REIT Joint Venture purchased the AT&T Oklahoma Buildings on December 28, 2000 for a purchase price of \$15,300,000. The AT&T Oklahoma Buildings, which were built in 1998 and 2000, respectively, consist of a one-story office building and a two-story office building, connected by a mutual hallway, containing an aggregate of 128,500 rentable square feet located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

AT&T Corp. (AT&T) leases the entire 78,500 rentable square feet of the two-story office building and 25,000 rentable square feet of the one-story office building. AT&T is among the world's leading voice and data communications companies, serving consumers, businesses and governments worldwide. AT&T has one of the largest digital wireless networks in North America and is one of the leading suppliers of data and Internet services for businesses. In addition, AT&T offers outsourcing, consulting and networking-integration to large businesses and is one of the largest direct internet access service providers for consumers in the United States. AT&T reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$51.7 billion.

The AT&T lease commenced in April 2000 and expires in August 2010. AT&T has the right to extend the AT&T lease for two additional five-year periods of time at the then-current fair market rental rate. AT&T has a right of first offer to lease the remainder of the space in the one-story office building currently occupied by Jordan Associates, Inc. (Jordan), if Jordan vacates the premises. The current annual base rent payable for the AT&T lease is \$1,242,000.

Jordan leases the remaining 25,000 rentable square feet contained in the one-story office building. Jordan provides businesses with advertising and related services including public relations, research, direct marketing and sales promotion. Through this corporate office and other offices in Tulsa, St. Louis, Indianapolis and Wausau, Wisconsin, Jordan provides services to major clients such as Bank One, Oklahoma, N.A., BlueCross & BlueShield of Oklahoma, Kraft Food Services, Inc., Logix Communications and the American Dental Association.

The Jordan lease commenced in December 1998 and expires in December 2008. Jordan has the right to extend the Jordan lease for one additional five-year period of time at the then-current fair market rental rate. The current annual base rent payable for the Jordan lease is \$294,500.

Metris Minnesota Building

Wells OP purchased the Metris Minnesota Building on December 21, 2000 for a purchase price of \$52,800,000. The Metris Minnesota Building, which was built in 2000, is a nine-story office building containing 300,633 rentable square feet located in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

The Metris Minnesota Building is Phase II of a two-phase office complex known as Crescent Ridge Corporate Center in Minnetonka, Minnesota, which is a western suburb of Minneapolis. Phase I of Crescent Ridge Corporate Center is an eight-story multi-tenant building which is connected to the Metris Minnesota Building by a single-story restaurant link building. Neither Phase I of Crescent Ridge Corporate Center nor the connecting restaurant are owned by Wells OP.

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

The Metris Minnesota Building is leased to Metris Direct, Inc. (Metris) as its corporate headquarters. Metris is a principal subsidiary of Metris Companies, Inc. (Metris Companies), a publicly traded company whose shares are listed on the NYSE (symbol MXT) which has guaranteed the Metris lease. Metris Companies is an information-based direct marketer of consumer credit products and fee-based services primarily to moderate income consumers. Metris Companies consumer credit products

Table of Contents

are primarily unsecured credit cards issued by its subsidiary, Direct Merchants Credit Card Bank. Metris Companies reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$1.14 billion.

The Metris Minnesota lease commenced in September 2000 and expires in December 2011. Metris has the right to renew the Metris Minnesota lease for an additional five-year term at fair market rent, but in no event less than the basic rent payable in the immediately preceding period. In addition, Metris is required to pay annual parking and storage fees of \$87,948 through December 2006 and \$114,062 payable on a monthly basis for the remainder of the lease term. The current annual base rent payable for the Metris Minnesota lease is \$4,960,445.

Stone & Webster Building

Wells OP purchased the Stone & Webster Building on December 21, 2000 for a purchase price of \$44,970,000. The Stone & Webster Building, which was built in 1994, is a six-story office building with 312,564 rentable square feet located in Houston, Texas. In addition, the site includes 4.34 acres of unencumbered land available for expansion.

Stone & Webster is a full-service global engineering and construction company offering managerial and technical resources for solving complex energy, environmental, infrastructure and industrial challenges. The Stone & Webster lease is guaranteed by The Shaw Group, Inc., the parent company of Stone & Webster. Shaw Group is the largest supplier of fabricated piping systems and services in the world. The Shaw Group reported a net worth, as of February 28, 2002, of approximately \$612 million.

The Stone & Webster lease commenced in December 2000 and expires in December 2010. Stone & Webster has the right to extend the Stone & Webster lease for two additional five-year periods of time for a base rent equal to the greater of (1) the last year's rent, or (2) the then-current market rental rate. The current annual base rent payable for the Stone & Webster lease is \$4,533,056.

SYSCO is the largest marketer and distributor of foodservice products in North America. SYSCO operates from approximately 100 distribution facilities and provides its products and services to about 356,000 restaurants and other users across the United States and portions of Canada. SYSCO reported a net worth, as of December 29, 2001, of approximately \$2.2 billion.

The SYSCO lease commenced in October 1998 and expires in September 2008. The current annual base rent payable for the SYSCO lease is \$2,130,320.

Motorola Plainfield Building

Wells OP purchased the Motorola Plainfield Building on November 1, 2000 for a purchase price of \$33,648,156. The Motorola Plainfield Building, which was built in 1976, is a three-story office building containing 236,710 rentable square feet located in South Plainfield, New Jersey.

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

The Motorola Plainfield Building is leased to Motorola, Inc. (Motorola). Motorola is a global leader in providing integrated communications solutions and embedded electronic solutions, including software-enhanced wireless telephones, two-way radios and digital and analog systems and set-top terminals for broadband cable television operators. Motorola reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$13.7 billion.

The Motorola Plainfield lease commenced in November 2000 and expires in October 2010. Motorola has the right to extend the Motorola Plainfield lease for two additional five-year periods of time for a base rent equal to the greater of (1) base rent for the immediately preceding lease year, or (2) 95%

Table of Contents

of the then-current fair market rental rate. The current annual base rent payable for the Motorola Plainfield lease is \$3,324,428.

The Motorola Plainfield lease grants Motorola a right of first refusal to purchase the Motorola Plainfield Building if Wells OP attempts to sell the property during the term of the lease. Additionally, Motorola has an expansion right for an additional 143,000 rentable square feet. If Motorola exercises its expansion option, upon completion of the expansion, the term of the Motorola Plainfield lease shall be extended an additional 10 years after Motorola occupies the expansion space. The base rent for the expansion space shall be determined by the construction costs and fees for the expansion. The base rent for the original building for the extended 10-year period shall be the greater of (1) the then-current base rent, or (2) 95% of the then-current fair market rental rate.

Quest Building

The VIII-IX Joint Venture purchased the Quest Building on January 10, 1997 for a purchase price of \$7,193,000. On July 1, 2000, the VIII-IX Joint Venture contributed the Quest Building to the VIII-IX-REIT Joint Venture. The Quest Building, which was built in 1984 and refurbished in 1996, is a two-story office building containing 65,006 rentable square feet located in Irvine, California.

The Quest Building is currently leased to Quest Software, Inc. (Quest). Quest, whose shares are publicly traded, is a corporation that provides software database management and disaster recovery services for its clients. Quest was established in April 1987 to develop and market software products to help insure uninterrupted, high performance access to enterprise and custom computing applications and databases. Quest reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$441 million.

The Quest lease commenced in June 2000 and expires in January 2004. The annual base rent payable for the remaining portion of the initial lease term is \$1,287,119. Quest has the right to extend the lease for two additional one-year periods of time at an annual base rent of \$1,365,126.

Delphi Building

Wells OP purchased the Delphi Building on June 29, 2000 for a purchase price of \$19,800,000. The Delphi Building, which was built in 2000, is a three-story office building containing 107,193 rentable square feet located in Troy, Michigan.

The Delphi Building is leased to Delphi Automotive Systems LLC (Delphi LLC). Delphi LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Delphi Automotive Systems Corporation (Delphi), formerly the Automotive Components Group of General Motors, which was spun off from General Motors in May 1999. Delphi is the world's largest automotive components supplier and sells its products to almost every major manufacturer of light vehicles in the world. Delphi reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$2.22 billion.

The Delphi lease commenced in May 2000 and expires in April 2007. Delphi LLC has the right to extend the Delphi lease for two additional five-year periods of time at 95% of the then-current fair market rental rate. The current annual base rent payable for the Delphi lease is \$1,955,524.

Avnet Building

Wells OP purchased the Avnet Building on June 12, 2000 for a purchase price of \$13,250,000. The Avnet Building, which was built in 2000, is a two-story office building containing 132,070 rentable square feet located in Tempe, Arizona. The Avnet Building is subject to a first priority mortgage in favor of

Table of Contents

SouthTrust Bank, N.A. (SouthTrust) securing a SouthTrust Line of Credit, which is more particularly described in the Real Estate Loans section of this prospectus.

The Avnet Building is leased to Avnet, Inc. (Avnet). Avnet is a Fortune 300 company and one of the world's largest industrial distributors of electronic components and computer products, including microprocessors, semi-conductors and electromechanical devices, serving customers in 60 countries. Additionally, Avnet sells products of more than 100 of the world's leading component manufacturers to customers around the world. Avnet reported a net worth, as of December 28, 2001, of approximately \$1.77 billion.

The Avnet lease commenced in May 2000 and expires in April 2010. Avnet has the right to extend the Avnet lease for two additional five-year periods of time. The annual rent payable for the first three years of each extension period will be at the current fair market rental rate at the end of the preceding term. The annual rent payable for the fourth and fifth years of each extension period will be the then-current fair market rental rate at the end of the preceding term multiplied by a factor of 1.093. The current annual base rent payable for the Avnet lease is \$1,516,164.

Avnet has a right of first refusal to purchase the Avnet Building if Wells OP attempts to sell the Avnet Building. Avnet also has an expansion option. Wells OP has the option to undertake the expansion or allow Avnet to undertake the expansion at its own expense, subject to certain terms and conditions.

The Avnet ground lease commenced in April 1999 and expires in September 2083. Wells OP has the right to terminate the Avnet ground lease prior to the expiration of the 30th year. The current annual ground lease payment pursuant to the Avnet ground lease is \$230,777.

Siemens Building

The XII-REIT Joint Venture purchased the Siemens Building on May 10, 2000 for a purchase price of \$14,265,000. The Siemens Building, which was built in 2000, is a three-story office building containing 77,054 rentable square feet located in Troy, Michigan.

The Siemens Building is leased to Siemens Automotive Corporation (Siemens). Siemens is a subsidiary of Siemens Corporation USA, a domestic corporation which conducts the American operations of Siemens AG, the world's second largest manufacturer of electronic capital goods. Siemens, part of the worldwide Automotive Systems Group of Siemens AG, is a supplier of advanced electronic and electrical products and systems to automobile manufacturers.

The Siemens lease commenced in January 2000 and expires in August 2010. Siemens has the right to extend the Siemens lease for two additional five-year periods at 95% of the then-current fair market rental rate. The current annual base rent payable for the Siemens lease is \$1,374,643.

Siemens has a one-time right to cancel the Siemens lease effective after the 90th month of the lease term if Siemens pays a cancellation fee to the XII-REIT Joint Venture currently calculated to be approximately \$1,234,160.

Motorola Tempe Building

Wells OP purchased the Motorola Tempe Building on March 29, 2000 for a purchase price of \$16,000,000. The Motorola Tempe Building, which was built in 1998, is a two-story office building containing 133,225 rentable square feet in Tempe, Arizona. The Motorola Tempe Building is subject to a

Table of Contents

first priority mortgage in favor of SouthTrust securing a SouthTrust line of credit, which is more particularly described in the Real Estate Loans section of this prospectus.

The Motorola Tempe Building is leased to Motorola, Inc. (Motorola) and is occupied by Motorola's Satellite Communications Division (SATCOM). SATCOM is a worldwide developer and manufacturer of space and ground communications equipment and systems. SATCOM is the prime contractor for the Iridium System and is primarily engaged in computer design and development functions.

The Motorola Tempe lease commenced in August 1998 and expires in August 2005. Motorola has the right to extend the Motorola Tempe lease for four additional five-year periods of time at the then-prevailing market rental rate. The current annual rent payable under the Motorola Tempe lease is \$1,843,834.

The Motorola Tempe Building is subject to a ground lease that commenced in November 1997 and expires in December 2082. Wells OP has the right to terminate the Motorola Tempe ground lease prior to the expiration of the 30th year and prior to the expiration of each subsequent 10-year period thereafter. The current annual ground lease payment pursuant to the Motorola Tempe ground lease is \$243,825.

ASML Building

Wells OP purchased the ASML Building on March 29, 2000 for a purchase price of \$17,355,000. The ASML Building, which was built in 2000, is a two-story office and warehouse building containing 95,133 rentable square feet located in Tempe, Arizona. The ASML Building is subject to a first priority mortgage in favor of SouthTrust securing a SouthTrust line of credit, which is more particularly described in the Real Estate Loans section of this prospectus.

The ASML Building is leased to ASM Lithography, Inc. (ASML). ASML is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ASM Lithography Holdings NV (ASML Holdings), a Dutch multi-national corporation that supplies lithography systems used for printing integrated circuit designs onto very thin disks of silicon, commonly referred to as wafers. These systems are supplied to integrated circuit manufacturers throughout the United States, Asia and Western Europe. ASML Holdings, a guarantor of the ASML lease, reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$1.1 billion.

The ASML lease commenced in June 1998 and expires in June 2013. The current annual base rent payable under the ASML lease is \$1,927,788. ASML has an expansion option which allows ASML the ability to expand the building into at least an additional 30,000 rentable square feet, to be constructed by Wells OP. If the expansion option exercised is for less than 30,000 square feet, Wells OP may reject the exercise at its sole discretion. In the event that ASML exercises its expansion option after the first five years of the initial lease term, such lease term will be extended to 10 years from the date of such expansion.

The ASML Building is subject to a ground lease that commenced in August 1997 and expires in December 2082. Wells OP has the right to terminate the ASML ground lease prior to the expiration of the 30th year, and prior to the expiration of each subsequent 10-year period thereafter. The current annual ground lease payment pursuant to the ASML ground lease is \$186,368.

Dial Building

Wells OP purchased the Dial Building on March 29, 2000 for a purchase price of \$14,250,000. The Dial Building, which was built in 1997, is a two-story office building containing 129,689 rentable square feet located in Scottsdale, Arizona. The Dial Building is subject to a first priority mortgage in favor of SouthTrust securing a SouthTrust line of credit, which is more particularly described in the Real Estate Loans section of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

The Dial Building is leased to Dial Corporation (Dial). Dial currently has its headquarters in the Dial Building and is one of the leading consumer product manufacturers in the United States. Dial's brands include Dial soap, Purex detergents, Renuzit air fresheners, Armour canned meats, and a variety of other leading consumer products. Dial reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$81.8 million.

The Dial lease commenced in August 1997 and expires in August 2008. Dial has the right to extend the Dial lease for two additional five-year periods of time at 95% of the then-current fair market rental rate. The annual rent payable for the initial term of the Dial lease is \$1,387,672.

Metris Tulsa Building

Wells OP purchased the Metris Tulsa Building on February 11, 2000 for a purchase price of \$12,700,000. The Metris Tulsa Building, which was built in 2000, is a three-story office building containing 101,100 rentable square feet located in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The Metris Tulsa Building is leased to Metris Direct, Inc. (Metris). Metris Companies, Inc., the parent company of Metris, has guaranteed the Metris Tulsa lease. The Metris Tulsa lease commenced in February 2000 and expires in January 2010. Metris has the right to extend the Metris Tulsa lease for two additional five-year periods of time. The monthly base rent payable for the renewal terms of the Metris Tulsa lease shall be equal to the then-current market rate. The current annual base rent payable for the Metris Tulsa lease is \$1,187,925.

Cinemark Building

Wells OP purchased the Cinemark Building on December 21, 1999 for a purchase price of \$21,800,000. The Cinemark Building, which was built in 1999, is a five-story office building containing 118,108 rentable square feet located in Plano, Texas. The Cinemark Building is subject to a first priority mortgage in favor of SouthTrust securing a SouthTrust line of credit, which is more particularly described in the Real Estate Loans section of this prospectus.

The entire 118,108 rentable square feet of the Cinemark Building is currently leased to two tenants. Cinemark USA, Inc. (Cinemark) occupies 65,521 rentable square feet (56%) of the Cinemark Building, and The Coca-Cola Company (Coca-Cola) occupies the remaining 52,587 (44%) rentable square feet of the Cinemark Building.

Cinemark, a privately owned company, is one of the largest motion picture exhibitors in North and South America. Cinemark currently operates in excess of 2,575 screens in 32 states within the United States and internationally in countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico and Peru. Cinemark reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$25.3 million.

The Cinemark lease commenced in December 1999 and expires in December 2009. Cinemark has the right to extend the Cinemark lease for one additional five-year period of time and a subsequent additional 10-year period of time. The monthly base rent payable for the second renewal term of the Cinemark lease shall be equal to 95% of the then-current market rate. Cinemark has a right of first refusal to lease any of the remaining rentable area of the Cinemark Building that subsequently becomes vacant. The current annual base rent payable for the Cinemark

lease is \$1,366,491.

Table of Contents

Coca-Cola is the global soft-drink industry leader with world headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. Coca-Cola manufactures and sells syrups, concentrates and beverage bases for Coca-Cola, the company's flagship brand, and over 160 other soft drink brands in nearly 200 countries around the world. Coca-Cola reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$11.4 billion.

The Coca-Cola lease commenced in December 1999 and expires in November 2006. Coca-Cola has the right to extend the lease for two additional five-year periods of time. The current annual base rent payable for the Coca-Cola lease is \$1,354,184.

Gartner Building

The XI-XII-REIT Joint Venture purchased the Gartner Building on September 20, 1999 for a purchase price of \$8,320,000. The Gartner Building, which was built in 1998, is a two-story office building containing 62,400 rentable square feet located in Fort Myers, Florida.

The Gartner Building is currently leased to The Gartner Group, Inc. (Gartner). The Gartner Building is occupied by Gartner's Financial Services Division. Gartner is one of the world's leading independent providers of research and analysis related to information and technology solutions. Gartner has over 80 locations worldwide and over 12,000 clients.

The Gartner lease commenced in February 1998 and expires in January 2008. Gartner has the right to extend the lease for two additional five-year periods of time at a rate equal to the lesser of (1) the prior rate increased by 2.5%, or (2) 95% of the then-current market rate. The current annual base rent payable for the Gartner lease is \$830,656.

Videojet Technologies Chicago Building

Wells OP purchased the Videojet Technologies Chicago Building on September 10, 1999 for a purchase price of \$32,630,940. The Videojet Technologies Chicago Building, which was built in 1991, is a two-story office, assembly and manufacturing building containing 250,354 rentable square feet located in Wood Dale, Illinois. The Videojet Technologies Chicago Building is subject to a first priority mortgage in favor of Bank of America, N.A. (BOA) securing the BOA loan, which is more particularly described in the Real Estate Loans section of this prospectus.

The Videojet Technologies Chicago Building is leased to Videojet Technologies, Inc. (Videojet). Videojet is one of the largest manufacturers of digital imaging, process control, and asset management systems worldwide. In February 2002, Videojet was acquired by Danaher Corporation (Danaher), a company whose shares are traded on the NYSE. Danaher is a leading manufacturer of process and environmental controls and tools and components.

The Videojet lease commenced in November 1991 and expires in November 2011. Videojet has the right to extend the Videojet lease for one additional five-year period of time. The current annual base rent payable for the Videojet lease is \$3,376,746.

Johnson Matthey Building

The XI-XII-REIT Joint Venture purchased the Johnson Matthey Building on August 17, 1999 for a purchase price of \$8,000,000. The Johnson Matthey Building, which was built in 1973 and refurbished in 1998, is a 130,000 square foot research and development, office and warehouse building located in Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Table of Contents

The Johnson Matthey Building is currently leased to Johnson Matthey, Inc. (Johnson Matthey). Johnson Matthey is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Johnson Matthey, PLC of the United Kingdom, a world leader in advanced materials technology. Johnson Matthey, PLC, a company whose shares are publicly traded, is over 175 years old, has operations in 38 countries and employs 12,000 people. Johnson Matthey reported a net worth, as of September 30, 2001, of approximately \$1.16 billion.

The Johnson Matthey lease commenced in July 1998 and expires in June 2007. Johnson Matthey has the right to extend the lease for two additional three-year periods of time at the then-current fair market rent. Johnson Matthey has a right of first refusal to purchase the Johnson Matthey Building in the event that the XI-XII-REIT Joint Venture desires to sell the building to an unrelated third-party. The current annual base rent payable under the Johnson Matthey lease is \$854,748.

Alstom Power Richmond Building

Wells OP purchased a 7.49 acre tract of land on July 22, 1999 for a purchase price of \$936,250 and completed construction of the Alstom Power Richmond Building at an aggregate cost of approximately \$11,400,000, including the cost of the land. The Alstom Power Richmond Building, which was built in 2000, is a four-story brick office building containing 99,057 gross square feet located in Midlothian, Virginia.

Wells OP originally obtained a construction loan from SouthTrust in the maximum principal amount of \$9,280,000 to fund the development and construction of the Alstom Power Richmond Building. This loan, which is more specifically detailed in the Real Estate Loans section of this prospectus, was converted to a line of credit and is secured by a first priority mortgage against the Alstom Power Richmond Building, an assignment of the landlord's interest in the Alstom Power Richmond lease and a \$4,000,000 letter of credit issued by Unibank.

The Alstom Power Richmond Building is leased to Alstom Power, Inc. (Alstom Power). Alstom Power is the result of the December 30, 1999 merger between ABB Power Generation, Inc. and ABB Alstom Power, Inc. Alstom Power reported a net worth, as of September 30, 2001, of approximately \$1.8 billion.

The Alstom Power Richmond lease commenced in July 2000 and expires in July 2007. Alstom Power has the right to extend the lease for two additional five-year periods of time at the then-current market rental rate. The current annual base rent payable for the Alstom Power lease is \$1,213,324.

Alstom Power has a one-time option to terminate the Alstom Power lease as to a portion of the premises containing between 24,500 and 25,500 rentable square feet as of the fifth anniversary of the rental commencement date and Alstom Power will be required to pay a termination fee equal to six times the sum of the next due installments of rent plus the unamortized portions of the base improvement allowance, additional allowance and broker commission, each being amortized in equal monthly installments of principal and interest over the initial term of the lease at an annual rate of 10%.

Sprint Building

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

The XI-XII-REIT Joint Venture purchased the Sprint Building on July 2, 1999 for a purchase price of \$9,500,000. The Sprint Building, which was built in 1992, is a three-story office building containing 68,900 rentable square feet located in Leawood, Kansas.

The Sprint Building is leased to Sprint Communications Company L.P. (Sprint). Sprint is the nation's third largest long distance phone company, which operates on an all-digital long distance

Table of Contents

telecommunications network using state-of-the-art fiber optic and electronic technology. Sprint reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$12.6 billion.

The Sprint lease commenced in May 1997 and expires in May 2007, subject to Sprint's right to extend the lease for two additional five-year periods of time. The annual base rent payable under the Sprint lease is \$1,102,404 for the remainder of the lease term. The monthly base rent payable for each extended term of the Sprint lease will be equal to 95% of the then-current market rental rate.

The Sprint lease contains a termination option which may be exercised by Sprint effective as of May 18, 2004 provided that Sprint has not exercised either expansion option, as described below. Sprint must provide notice to the XI-XII-REIT Joint Venture of its intent to exercise its termination option on or before August 21, 2003. If Sprint exercises its termination option, it will be required to pay the joint venture a termination payment equal to \$6.53 per square foot, or \$450,199.

Sprint also has an expansion option for an additional 20,000 square feet of office space. If Sprint exercises an expansion option, the XI-XII-REIT Joint Venture will be required to construct the expansion improvements in accordance with the specific drawings and plans attached as an exhibit to the Sprint lease. The joint venture will be required to fund the expansion improvements and to fund to Sprint a tenant finish allowance of \$10 per square foot for the expansion space.

EYBL CarTex Building

The XI-XII-REIT Joint Venture purchased the EYBL CarTex Building on May 18, 1999 for a purchase price of \$5,085,000. The EYBL CarTex Building, which was built in 1989, is a manufacturing and office building consisting of a total of 169,510 square feet located in Fountain Inn, South Carolina.

The EYBL CarTex Building is leased to EYBL CarTex, Inc. (EYBL CarTex). EYBL CarTex produces automotive textiles for BMW, Mercedes, GM Bali, VW Mexico and Golf A4. EYBL CarTex is a wholly-owned subsidiary of EYBL International, AG, Krems/Austria. EYBL International is the world's largest producer of circular knit textile products and loop pile plushes for the automotive industry. EYBL International reported a net worth, as of September 30, 2001, of approximately \$41.5 billion.

The EYBL CarTex lease commenced in March 1998 and expires in February 2008, subject to EYBL CarTex's right to extend the lease for two additional five-year periods of time. The monthly base rent payable for each extended term of the lease will be equal to the fair market rent. In addition, EYBL CarTex has an option to purchase the EYBL CarTex Building at the expiration of the initial lease term by giving notice to the landlord by March 1, 2007. The current annual base rent payable under the EYBL CarTex lease is \$550,908.

Matsushita Building

Wells OP purchased an 8.8 acre tract of land on March 15, 1999, for a purchase price of \$4,450,230. Wells OP completed construction of the Matsushita Building in 2000 at an aggregate cost of \$18,431,206, including the cost of the land. The Matsushita Building is a two-story office

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

building containing 144,906 rentable square feet located in Lake Forest, California.

The Matsushita Building is leased to Matsushita Avionics Systems Corporation (Matsushita Avionics). Matsushita Avionics is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Matsushita Electric Corporation of America (Matsushita Electric). Matsushita Electric, a guarantor of the Matsushita lease, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. (Matsushita Industrial), a Japanese company which is the world's largest consumer electronics manufacturer.

The Matsushita lease commenced in January 2000 and expires in January 2007. Matsushita Avionics has the option to extend the initial term of the Matsushita lease for two successive five-year

Table of Contents

periods at a rate of 95% of the stated rental rate. The monthly base rent during the option term shall be adjusted upward at the beginning of the 24th and 48th month of each option term by an amount equal to 6% of the monthly base rent payable immediately preceding such period. The current annual base rent payable for the Matsushita lease is \$2,005,464.

AT&T Pennsylvania Building

Wells OP purchased the AT&T Pennsylvania Building on February 4, 1999 for a purchase price of \$12,291,200. The AT&T Pennsylvania Building, which was built in 1998, is a four-story office building containing 81,859 rentable square feet located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The AT&T Pennsylvania Building is leased to Pennsylvania Cellular Telephone Corp. (Pennsylvania Telephone), a subsidiary of AT&T Corp. (AT&T), and the obligations of Pennsylvania Telephone under the Pennsylvania Telephone lease are guaranteed by AT&T.

The Pennsylvania Telephone lease commenced in November 1998 and expires in November 2008. Pennsylvania Telephone has the option to extend the initial term of the Pennsylvania Telephone lease for three additional five-year periods and one additional four year and 11-month period. The annual base rent for each extended term under the lease will be equal to 93% of the fair market rent. The fair market rent shall be multiplied by the fair market escalator (which represents the yearly rate of increases in the fair market rent for the entire renewal term), if any. The current annual base rent payable for the Pennsylvania Telephone lease is \$1,442,116.

In addition, the Pennsylvania Telephone lease contains an option to expand the premises to create additional office space of not less than 40,000 gross square feet and not more than 90,000 gross square feet, as well as additional parking to accommodate such office space. If Pennsylvania Telephone exercises its option for the expansion improvements, Wells OP will be obligated to expend the funds necessary to construct the expansion improvements. Pennsylvania Telephone may exercise its expansion option by delivering written notice to Wells OP at any time before the last business day of the 96th month of the initial term of the Pennsylvania Telephone lease.

PwC Building

Wells OP purchased the PwC Building on December 31, 1998 for a purchase price of \$21,127,854. The PwC Building, which was built in 1998, is a four-story office building containing 130,091 rentable square feet located in Tampa, Florida. Wells OP purchased the PwC Building subject to a loan from SouthTrust. The SouthTrust loan, which is more particularly described in the Real Estate Loans section of this prospectus, is secured by a first priority mortgage against the PwC Building.

The PwC Building is leased to PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). PwC provides a full range of business advisory services to leading global, national and local companies and to public institutions.

The PwC lease commenced in December 1998 and expires in December 2008, subject to PwC's right to extend the lease for two additional five-year periods of time. The current annual base rent payable under the PwC lease is \$2,093,382. The base rent escalates at the rate of 3% per year throughout the 10-year lease term. In addition, PwC is required to pay a reserve of \$13,009 (\$0.10 per square foot) as additional rent.

The annual base rent for each renewal term under the lease will be equal to the greater of (1) 90% of the then-current market rent rate for such space multiplied by the rentable area of the leased premises, or (2) 100% of the base rent paid during the last lease year of the initial term, or the then-current renewal term.

Table of Contents

In addition, the PwC lease contains an option to expand the premises to include an additional three or four-story building with an amount of square feet up to a total of 132,000 square feet which, if exercised by PwC, will require Wells OP to expend funds necessary to construct the expansion building. PwC may exercise its expansion option at any time prior to the expiration of the initial term of the PwC lease.

If PwC elects to exercise its expansion option, Wells OP will be required to expand the parking garage such that a sufficient number of parking spaces, at least equal to four parking spaces per 1,000 square feet of rentable area, is maintained. In the event that PwC elects to exercise its expansion option and Wells OP determines not to proceed with the construction of the expansion building as described above, or if Wells OP is otherwise required to construct the expansion building and fails to do so in a timely basis pursuant to the PwC lease, PwC may exercise its purchase option by giving Wells OP written notice of such exercise within 30 days after either such event. If PwC properly exercises its purchase option, PwC must simultaneously deliver a deposit in the amount of \$50,000.

Cort Furniture Building

The Cort Joint Venture purchased the Cort Furniture Building on July 31, 1998 for a purchase price of \$6,400,000. The Cort Furniture Building, which was built in 1975, is a one-story office, showroom and warehouse building containing 52,000 rentable square feet located in Fountain Valley, California.

The Cort Furniture Building is leased to Cort Furniture Rental Corporation (Cort). Cort uses the Cort Furniture Building as its regional corporate headquarters with an attached clearance showroom and warehouse storage areas. Cort is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cort Business Services Corporation, the largest and only national provider of high-quality office and residential rental furniture and related accessories. The obligations of Cort under the Cort Furniture lease are guaranteed by Cort Business Services Corporation.

The Cort lease commenced in November 1988 and expires in October 2003. Cort has an option to extend the Cort lease for an additional five-year period of time at 90% of the then-fair market rental value, but will be no less than the rent in the 15th year of the Cort lease. The current annual base rent payable under the Cort lease is \$834,888 for the remainder of the lease term.

Fairchild Building

The Fremont Joint Venture purchased the Fairchild Building on July 21, 1998 for a purchase price of \$8,900,000. The Fairchild Building, which was built in 1985, is a two-story manufacturing and office building containing 58,424 rentable square feet located in Fremont, Alameda County, California.

The Fairchild Building is leased to Fairchild Technologies U.S.A., Inc. (Fairchild). Fairchild is a global leader in the design and manufacture of production equipment for semiconductor and compact disk manufacturing. Fairchild is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fairchild Corporation (Fairchild Corp), the largest aerospace fastener and fastening system manufacturer and one of the largest independent aerospace parts distributors in the world. The obligations of Fairchild under the Fairchild lease are guaranteed by Fairchild Corp. Fairchild Corp. reported a net worth, as of December 30, 2001, of approximately \$403 million.

Table of Contents

The Fairchild lease commenced in December 1997 and expires in November 2004, subject to Fairchild's right to extend the Fairchild lease for an additional five-year period. The base rent during the first year of the extended term of the Fairchild lease, if exercised by Fairchild, shall be 95% of the then-fair market rental value of the Fairchild Building subject to the annual 3% increase adjustments. The current annual base rent payable under the Fairchild lease is \$920,144.

Avaya Building

The Avaya Building was purchased by the IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture on June 24, 1998 for a purchase price of \$5,504,276. The Avaya Building, which was built in 1998, is a one-story office building containing 57,186 rentable square feet located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The Avaya Building is leased to Avaya, Inc. (Avaya), the former Enterprise Networks Group of Lucent Technologies Inc. (Lucent Technologies). Lucent Technologies, the former tenant, assigned the lease to Avaya on September 30, 2000. Lucent Technologies, which has not been released from its obligations as tenant to pay rent under the lease, is a telecommunications company which was spun off by AT&T in April 1996. Avaya reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$452 million. Lucent Technologies reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$10.63 billion.

The Avaya lease commenced in January 1998 and expires in January 2008. The current annual base rent payable under the Avaya lease is \$536,977. Under the Avaya lease, Avaya also has an option to terminate the Avaya lease on the seventh anniversary of the rental commencement date. If Avaya elects to exercise its option to terminate the Avaya lease, Avaya would be required to pay a termination payment anticipated to be approximately \$1,339,000.

Iomega Building

Wells Fund X originally purchased the Iomega Building on April 1, 1998 for a purchase price of \$5,025,000 and, on July 1, 1998, contributed the Iomega Building to the IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture. The Iomega Building is a warehouse and office building with 108,250 rentable square feet located in Ogden, Utah.

The Iomega Building is leased to Iomega Corporation (Iomega). Iomega, a company whose shares are traded on the NYSE, is a manufacturer of computer storage devices used by individuals, businesses, government and educational institutions, including Zip drives and disks, Jaz one gigabyte drives and disks, and tape backup drives and cartridges. Iomega reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$378.9 million.

The Iomega lease commenced in August 1996 and expires in April 2009. On March 1, 2003 and July 1, 2006, the monthly base rent payable under the Iomega lease will be increased to reflect an amount equal to 100% of the increase in the Consumer Price Index during the preceding 40 months; provided however, that in no event shall the base rent be increased with respect to any one year by more than 6% or by less than 3% per year, compounded annually, on a cumulative basis from the beginning of the lease term. The current annual base rent payable under the Iomega lease is \$659,868.

Interlocken Building

The IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture purchased the Interlocken Building on March 20, 1998 for a purchase price of \$8,275,000. The Interlocken Building, which was built in 1996, is a three-story multi-tenant office building containing 51,975 rentable square feet located in Broomfield, Colorado. The aggregate current annual base rent payable for all tenants of the Interlocken Building is \$1,070,515.

Table of Contents

Ohmeda Building

The IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture purchased the Ohmeda Building on February 13, 1998 for a purchase price of \$10,325,000. The Ohmeda Building, which was built in 1988, is a two-story office building containing 106,750 rentable square feet located in Louisville, Colorado.

The Ohmeda Building is leased to Ohmeda, Inc. (Ohmeda). Ohmeda is a medical supply firm based in Boulder, Colorado and is a worldwide leader in vascular access and hemodynamic monitoring for hospital patients. On April 13, 1998, Instrumentarium Corporation (Instrumentarium), a Finnish company, acquired the division of Ohmeda that occupies the Ohmeda Building. Instrumentarium, a guarantor on the Ohmeda lease, is an international health care company concentrating on selected fields of medical technology manufacturing, marketing and distribution. Instrumentarium reported a net worth, as of December 31, 2001, of approximately \$480 million.

The Ohmeda lease expires in January 2005, subject to Ohmeda's right to extend the Ohmeda lease for two additional five-year periods of time. The current annual base rent payable under the Ohmeda lease is \$1,004,520.

The Ohmeda lease contains an option to expand the premises by an amount of square feet up to a total of 200,000 square feet which, if exercised by Ohmeda, will require the IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture to expend funds necessary to acquire additional land, if necessary, and to construct the expansion space.

Alstom Power Knoxville Building

Wells Fund IX purchased the land and constructed the Alstom Power Knoxville Building. The Alstom Power Knoxville Building, which was built in 1997, is a three-story multi-tenant steel-framed office building containing 84,404 square feet located in Knoxville, Tennessee. Wells Fund IX contributed the Alstom Power Knoxville Building to the IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture on March 26, 1997 and was credited with making a \$7,900,000 capital contribution to the IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture.

The Alstom Power Knoxville Building is currently leased to Alstom Power, Inc. (Alstom Power). Alstom Power is the result of the December 30, 1999 merger between ABB Power Generation, Inc. and ABB Alstom Power, Inc. Alstom Power reported a net worth, as of September 30, 2001, of approximately \$1.8 billion.

As security for Alstom Power's obligations under its lease, Alstom Power has provided to the IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture an irrevocable standby letter of credit in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Alstom Power Knoxville lease. The letter of credit maintained by Alstom Power is required to be in the amount of \$4,000,000 until the seventh anniversary of the rental commencement date (January 2005), at which time it will be reduced by \$1,000,000 each year until the end of the lease term.

The Alstom Power Knoxville lease commenced in January 1998 and expires in November 2007. The current annual base rent for the Alstom Power Knoxville lease is \$1,106,520.

Alstom Power has an option to terminate the Alstom Power Knoxville lease as of the seventh anniversary of the rental commencement date. If Alstom Power elects to exercise this termination option, Alstom Power is required to pay to the IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture a termination payment currently estimated to be approximately \$1,800,000 based upon certain assumptions.

Table of Contents

Property Management Fees

Wells Management, our Property Manager, has been retained to manage and lease substantially all of our properties. Except as set forth below, we pay management and leasing fees to Wells Management in an amount equal to the lesser of: (A) 4.5% of gross revenues, or (B) 0.6% of the net asset value of the properties (excluding vacant properties) owned by the Wells REIT, calculated on an annual basis. For purposes of this calculation, net asset value shall be defined as the excess of (1) the aggregate of the fair market value of all properties owned by the Wells REIT (excluding vacant properties), over (2) the aggregate outstanding debt of the Wells REIT (excluding debts having maturities of one year or less). In addition, we may pay Wells Management a separate fee for the one-time initial rent-up or leasing-up of newly constructed properties in an amount not to exceed the fee customarily charged in arm's length transactions by others rendering similar services in the same geographic area for similar properties as determined by a survey of brokers and agents in such area (customarily equal to the first month's rent).

Wells Management has also been retained to manage and lease all of the properties currently owned by the IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture and the VIII-IX-REIT Joint Venture. While both Wells Fund XI and the Wells REIT are authorized to pay management and leasing fees to Wells Management in the amount of 4.5% of gross revenues, Wells Fund VIII, Wells Fund IX and Wells Fund X are authorized to pay aggregate management and leasing fees to Wells Management in the amount of 6% of gross revenues. Accordingly, a portion of the gross revenues of these joint ventures will be subject to a 6% management and leasing fee and a portion of gross revenues will be subject to a 4.5% management and leasing fee based upon the respective ownership percentages of the joint venture partners in each of these two joint ventures.

Wells Management also received or will receive a one-time initial lease-up fee equal to the first month's rent for the leasing of the Alstom Power Knoxville Building, the Avaya Building, the Matsushita Building, the Alstom Power Richmond Building and the Nissan Project.

Real Estate Loans

SouthTrust Loans

Wells OP has established various secured lines of credit with SouthTrust Bank, N.A. (SouthTrust) whereby SouthTrust has agreed to lend an aggregate amount of up to \$72,140,000 in connection with its purchase of real properties. The interest rate on each of these separate lines of credit is an annual variable rate equal to the London InterBank Offered Rate (LIBOR) for a 30-day period plus 175 basis points. Wells OP will be charged an advance fee of 0.125% of the amount of each advance. As of June 30, 2002, the interest rate on each of the SouthTrust lines of credit was 3.625% per annum.

The \$32,393,000 SouthTrust Line of Credit

The \$32,393,000 SouthTrust line of credit requires monthly payments of interest only and matures on September 10, 2002. This SouthTrust line of credit is secured by first priority mortgages against the Cinemark Building, the Dial Building and the ASML Building. As of June 30, 2002, there was no outstanding principal balance due on the \$32,393,000 SouthTrust line of credit.

The \$12,844,000 SouthTrust Line of Credit

The \$12,844,000 SouthTrust line of credit requires monthly payments of interest only and matures on September 10, 2002. This SouthTrust line of credit is secured by a first priority mortgage against the PwC Building. As of June 30, 2002, there was no outstanding principal balance due on the \$12,844,000 SouthTrust line of credit.

Table of Contents

The \$19,003,000 SouthTrust Line of Credit

The \$19,003,000 SouthTrust line of credit requires monthly payments of interest only and matures on September 10, 2002. This SouthTrust line of credit is secured by first priority mortgages against the Avnet Building and the Motorola Tempe Building. As of June 30, 2002, there was no outstanding principal balance due on the \$19,003,000 SouthTrust line of credit.

The \$7,900,000 SouthTrust Line of Credit

Wells OP originally obtained a loan from SouthTrust Bank, N.A. in connection with the acquisition, development and construction of the Alstom Power Richmond Building. After completion of construction, SouthTrust converted the construction loan into a separate line of credit in the maximum principal amount of up to \$7,900,000. This SouthTrust line of credit requires payments of interest only and matures on September 10, 2002. The \$7,900,000 SouthTrust line of credit is secured by a first priority mortgage against the Alstom Power Richmond Building, the Alstom Power Richmond lease and a \$4,000,000 letter of credit issued by Unibank. As of June 30, 2002, the outstanding principal balance on the \$7,900,000 SouthTrust line of credit was \$7,655,600.

BOA Line of Credit

Wells OP established a secured line of credit in the amount of \$85,000,000 with Bank of America, N.A. (BOA Line of Credit) in connection with its purchase of real properties. In addition, Wells OP may increase the BOA Line of Credit up to an amount of \$110,000,000 with the lender's approval. The interest rate on the BOA Line of Credit is an annual variable rate equal to LIBOR for a 30-day period plus 180 basis points. The BOA Line of Credit requires monthly payments of interest only and matures on May 11, 2004. As of June 30, 2002, the interest rate on the BOA Line of Credit was 3.63% per annum. The BOA Line of Credit is secured by first priority mortgages against the Videojet Technologies Chicago Building, the AT&T Pennsylvania Building, the Motorola Tempe Building, the Matsushita Building, the Metris Tulsa Building and the Delphi Building. As of June 30, 2002, there was no outstanding principal balance due on the BOA Line of Credit.

BOA Construction Loan

Wells OP obtained a construction loan in the amount of \$34,200,000 from Bank of America, N.A. (BOA Loan), to fund the construction of a building on the Nissan Property located in Irving, Texas. The loan requires monthly payments of interest only and matures on July 30, 2003. The interest rate on the loan is fixed at 5.91%. As of June 30, 2002, the outstanding principal balance on the BOA Loan was \$8,002,541. The BOA Loan is secured by a first priority mortgage on the Nissan Property.

Table of Contents**SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

The Wells REIT commenced active operations when it received and accepted subscriptions for a minimum of 125,000 shares on June 5, 1998. The following sets forth a summary of the selected financial data for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, 2000 and 1999:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Total assets	\$ 753,224,519	\$ 398,550,346	\$ 143,852,290
Total revenues	49,308,802	23,373,206	6,495,395
Net income	21,723,967	8,552,967	3,884,649
Net income allocated to Stockholders	21,723,967	8,552,967	3,884,649
Earning per share:			
Basic and diluted	\$0.43	\$0.40	\$0.50
Cash distributions	0.76	0.73	0.70

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND
RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our accompanying financial statements and the notes thereto.

General*Forward Looking Statements*

This section and other sections in the prospectus contain forward-looking statements, within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, including discussion and analysis of the financial condition of the Wells REIT, anticipated capital expenditures required to complete certain projects, amounts of anticipated cash distributions to stockholders in the future and certain other matters. Readers of this prospectus should be aware that there are various factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from any forward-looking statements made in this prospectus, which include changes in general economic conditions, changes in real estate conditions, construction costs which may exceed estimates, construction delays, increases in interest rates, lease-up risks, inability to obtain new tenants upon the expiration of existing leases, and the potential need to fund tenant improvements or other capital expenditures out of operating cash flow. (See generally Risk Factors.)

REIT Qualification

We have made an election under Section 856 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code to be taxed as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code beginning with its taxable year ended December 31, 1999. As a REIT for federal income tax purposes, we generally will not be subject to Federal income

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

tax on income that we distribute to our stockholders. If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any taxable year, we will be subject to federal income tax on our taxable income at regular corporate rates and will not be permitted to qualify for treatment as a REIT for federal income tax purposes for four years following the year in which our qualification is lost. Such an event could materially, adversely affect our net income. However, we believe that we are organized and operate in a manner, which has enabled us to qualify for treatment as a REIT for federal income tax purposes during the year ended December 31, 2001. In addition, we intend to continue to operate the Wells REIT so as to remain qualified as a REIT for federal income tax purposes.

Table of Contents

Liquidity and Capital Resources

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, we received aggregate gross offering proceeds of \$522,516,620 from the sale of 52,251,662 shares of our common stock. After payment of \$18,143,307 in acquisition and advisory fees and acquisition expenses, payment of \$58,387,809 in selling commissions and organization and offering expenses, and common stock redemptions of \$4,137,427 pursuant to our share redemption program, we raised net offering proceeds available for investment in properties of \$441,848,077 during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001.

During the three months ended March 31, 2002, we received aggregate gross offering proceeds of \$255,702,943 from the sale of 25,570,294 shares of our common stock. After payment of \$8,843,134 in acquisition and advisory fees and acquisition expenses, payment of \$27,106,265 in selling commissions and organization and offering expenses, and common stock redemptions of \$3,041,981 pursuant to our share redemption program, we raised net offering proceeds of \$216,711,563 during the first quarter of 2002, of which \$185,290,197 remained available for investment in properties at quarter end.

During the three months ended March 31, 2001, we received aggregate gross offering proceeds of \$66,174,704 from the sale of 6,617,470 shares of our common stock. After payment of \$2,288,933 in acquisition and advisory fees and acquisition expenses, payment of \$8,175,768 in selling commissions and organizational and offering expenses, and common stock redemptions of \$776,555 pursuant to our share redemption program, we raised net offering proceeds of \$54,933,448, of which \$5,952,930 was available for investment in properties at quarter end.

The net increase in cash and cash equivalents during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, as compared to the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000, and for the three months ended March 31, 2002, as compared to the three months ended March 31, 2001, is primarily the result of raising increased amounts of capital from the sale of shares of common stock, offset by the acquisition of properties during 2001 and the first quarter of 2002, and the payment of acquisition and advisory fees and acquisition expenses, commissions and, organization and offering costs.

As of March 31, 2002, we owned interests in 44 real estate properties either directly or through interests in joint ventures. These properties are generating operating cash flow sufficient to cover our operating expenses and pay dividends to our stockholders. We pay dividends on a quarterly basis regardless of the frequency with which such distributions are declared. Dividends will be paid to investors who are stockholders as of the record dates selected by our board of directors. We currently calculate quarterly dividends based on the daily record and dividend declaration dates; thus, stockholders are entitled to receive dividends immediately upon the purchase of shares. Dividends declared during 2001 and 2000 totaled \$0.76 per share and \$0.73 per share, respectively. Dividends declared for the first quarter of 2002 and the first quarter of 2001 were approximately \$0.194 and \$0.188 per share, respectively.

Dividends to be distributed to the stockholders are determined by our board of directors and are dependent on a number of factors, including funds available for payment of dividends, financial condition, capital expenditure requirements and annual distribution requirements in order to maintain our status as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. Operating cash flows are expected to increase as additional properties are added to our investment portfolio.

Cash Flows From Operating Activities

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

Our net cash provided by operating activities was \$42,349,342 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, \$7,319,639 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 and \$4,008,275 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999. The increase in net cash provided by operating activities was due primarily to the net income generated by properties acquired during 2000 and 2001.

Table of Contents

Our net cash provided by operating activities was \$13,117,549 and \$8,235,314 for the three months ended March 31, 2002 and 2001, respectively. The increase in net cash provided by operating activities was due primarily to the net income generated by additional properties acquired during 2002 and 2001.

Cash Flows From Investing Activities

Our net cash used in investing activities was \$274,605,735 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, \$249,316,460 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 and \$105,394,956 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999. The increase in net cash used in investing activities was due primarily to investments in properties, directly and through contributions to joint ventures, and the payment of related deferred project costs.

Our net cash used in investing activities was \$111,821,692 and \$4,264,257 for the three months ended March 31, 2002 and 2001, respectively. The increase in net cash used in investing activities was due primarily to investments in properties and the payment of related deferred project costs, partially offset by distributions received from joint ventures.

Cash Flows From Financing Activities

Our net cash provided by financing activities was \$303,544,260 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, \$243,365,318 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000, and \$96,337,082 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999. The increase in net cash provided by financing activities was due primarily to the raising of additional capital offset by the repayment of notes payable. We raised \$522,516,620 in offering proceeds for fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, as compared to \$180,387,220 for fiscal year ended December 31, 2000, and \$103,169,490 for fiscal year ended December 31, 1999. In addition, we received loan proceeds from financing secured by properties of \$110,243,145 and repaid notes payable in the amount of \$229,781,888 for fiscal year ended December 31, 2001.

Our net cash provided by financing activities was \$210,144,548 for the three months ended March 31, 2002 and net cash used in financing activities for the three months ended March 31, 2001 was \$113,042. The increase in net cash provided by financing activities was due primarily to the raising of additional capital and the related repayment of notes payable. We raised \$255,702,943 in offering proceeds for the three months ended March 31, 2002, as compared to \$66,174,705 for the same period in 2001.

Results of Operations

Comparison of Fiscal Years Ended December 31, 2001, 2000 and 1999

Gross revenues were \$49,308,802 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, \$23,373,206 for fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 and \$6,495,395 for fiscal year ended December 31, 1999. Gross revenues for the year ended December 31, 2001, 2000 and 1999 were attributable to rental income, interest income earned on funds we held prior to the investment in properties, and income earned from joint ventures. The increase in revenues for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001 was primarily attributable to the purchase of additional properties during 2000 and 2001. The purchase of additional properties also resulted in an increase in expenses which totaled \$27,584,835 for the fiscal year ended

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

December 31, 2001, \$14,820,239 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 and \$2,610,746 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999. Expenses in 2001, 2000 and 1999 consisted primarily of depreciation, interest expense and management and leasing fees. Our net income also increased from

Table of Contents

\$3,884,649 for fiscal year ended December 31, 1999 to \$8,552,967 for fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 to \$21,723,967 for the year ended December 31, 2001.

Comparison of First Quarter 2002 and 2001

As of March 31, 2002, our real estate properties were 100% leased to tenants. Gross revenues were \$19,192,803 and \$10,669,713 for the three months ended March 31, 2002 and 2001, respectively. Gross revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2002 and 2001 were attributable to rental income, interest income earned on funds we held prior to the investment in properties, and income earned from joint ventures. The increase in revenues in 2002 was primarily attributable to the purchase of additional properties for \$104,051,998 during 2002 and the purchase of additional properties for \$227,933,858 in the last three quarters of 2001. The purchase of additional properties also resulted in an increase in expenses which totaled \$8,413,139 for the three months ended March 31, 2002, as compared to \$7,394,368 for the three months ended March 31, 2001. Expenses in 2002 and 2001 consisted primarily of depreciation, interest expense, management and leasing fees and general and administrative costs. As a result, our net income also increased from \$3,275,345 for the three months ended March 31, 2001 to \$10,779,664 for the three months ended March 31, 2002.

Property Operations

The following table summarizes the operations of the joint ventures in which we owned an interest as of December 31, 2001, 2000 and 1999:

	Total Revenue			Net Income			Well REIT s Share of Net Income		
	For Years Ended December 31			For Years Ended December 31			For Years Ended December 31		
	2001	2000	1999	2001	2000	1999	2001	2000	1999
Fund IX-X-XI-REIT Joint Venture	\$ 4,344,209	\$ 4,388,193	\$ 4,053,042	\$ 2,684,837	\$ 2,669,143	\$ 2,172,244	\$ 99,649	\$ 99,177	\$ 81,501
Orange County Joint Venture	797,937	795,545	795,545	546,171	568,961	550,952	238,542	248,449	240,585
Fremont Joint Venture	907,673	902,946	902,946	562,893	563,133	559,174	436,265	436,452	433,383
Fund XI-XII-REIT Joint Venture	3,371,067	3,349,186	1,443,503	2,064,911	2,078,556	853,073	1,172,103	1,179,848	488,500
Fund XII-REIT Joint Venture	4,708,467	976,865	N/A	2,611,522	614,250	N/A	1,386,877	305,060	N/A
Fund VIII-IX-REIT Joint Venture	1,208,724	563,049	N/A	566,840	309,893	N/A	89,779	24,887	N/A
Fund XIII-REIT Joint Venture	706,373	N/A	N/A	356,355	N/A	N/A	297,745	N/A	N/A
	\$ 16,044,450	\$ 10,975,784	\$ 7,195,036	\$ 8,977,529	\$ 6,803,936	\$ 4,135,443	\$ 3,720,960	\$ 2,293,873	\$ 1,243,969

Table of Contents**Funds From Operations**

Funds From Operations (FFO), as defined by the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT), generally means net income, computed in accordance with GAAP excluding extraordinary items (as defined by GAAP) and gains (or losses) from sales of property, plus depreciation and amortization on real estate assets, and after adjustments for unconsolidated partnerships, joint ventures and subsidiaries. We believe that FFO is helpful to investors as a measure of the performance of an equity REIT. However, our calculation of FFO, while consistent with NAREIT's definition, may not be comparable to similarly titled measures presented by other REITs. Adjusted Funds From Operations (AFFO) is defined as FFO adjusted to exclude the effects of straight-line rent adjustments, deferred loan cost amortization and other non-cash and/or unusual items. Neither FFO nor AFFO represent cash generated from operating activities in accordance with GAAP and should not be considered as alternatives to net income as an indication of our performance or to cash flows as a measure of liquidity or ability to make distributions.

The following table reflects the calculation of FFO and AFFO for the three years ended December 31, 2001, 2000, and 1999, respectively:

	December 31, 2001	December 31, 2000	December 31, 1999
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
FUNDS FROM OPERATIONS:			
Net income	\$ 21,723,967	\$ 8,552,967	\$ 3,884,649
Add:			
Depreciation of real assets	15,344,801	7,743,550	1,726,103
Amortization of deferred leasing costs	303,347	350,991	0
Depreciation and amortization unconsolidated partnerships	3,211,828	852,968	652,167
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Funds from operations (FFO)	40,583,943	17,500,476	6,262,919
Adjustments:			
Loan cost amortization	770,192	232,559	8,921
Straight line rent	(2,754,877)	(1,650,791)	(847,814)
Straight line rent unconsolidated partnerships	(543,039)	(245,288)	(140,076)
Lease acquisition fees paid	0	(152,500)	0
Lease acquisition fees paid Unconsolidated partnerships	0	(8,002)	(512)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Adjusted funds from operations	\$ 38,056,219	\$ 15,676,454	\$ 5,283,438
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES:			
BASIC AND DILUTED	51,081,867	21,616,051	7,769,298
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Table of Contents

Straight-Lined Rental Revenues

We recognize rental income generated from all leases on real estate assets in which we have an ownership interest, either directly or through investments in joint ventures, on a straight-line basis over the terms of the respective leases. If a tenant was to encounter financial difficulties in future periods, the amount recorded as a receivable may not be realized.

Operating Cost Reimbursements

We generally bill tenants for operating cost reimbursements, either directly or through investments in joint ventures, on a monthly basis at amounts estimated largely based on actual prior period activity and the respective lease terms. Such billings are generally adjusted on an annual basis to reflect reimbursements owed to the landlord based on the actual costs incurred during the period and the respective lease terms. Financial difficulties encountered by tenants may result in receivables not being realized.

Real Estate

We continually monitor events and changes in circumstances indicating that the carrying amounts of the real estate assets in which we have an ownership interest, either directly or through investments in joint ventures, may not be recoverable. When such events or changes in circumstances are present, we assess the potential impairment by comparing the fair market value of the asset, estimated at an amount equal to the future undiscounted operating cash flows expected to be generated from tenants over the life of the asset and from its eventual disposition, to the carrying value of the asset. In the event that the carrying amount exceeds the estimated fair market value, we would recognize an impairment loss in the amount required to adjust the carrying amount of the asset to its estimated fair market value. Neither the Wells REIT nor our joint ventures have recognized impairment losses on real estate assets in 2001, 2000 or 1999.

Deferred Project Costs

We record acquisition and advisory fees and acquisition expenses payable to Wells Capital, Inc., our advisor, by capitalizing deferred project costs and reimbursing our advisor in an amount equal to 3.5% of cumulative capital raised to date. As we invest our capital proceeds, deferred project costs are applied to real estate assets, either directly or through contributions to joint ventures, at an amount equal to 3.5% of each investment and depreciated over the useful lives of the respective real estate assets.

Deferred Offering Costs

Our advisor expects to continue to fund 100% of the organization and offering costs and recognize related expenses, to the extent that such costs exceed 3% of cumulative capital raised, on our behalf. Organization and offering costs include items such as legal and accounting fees, marketing and promotional costs, and printing costs, and specifically exclude sales costs and underwriting commissions. We record offering costs by accruing deferred offering costs, with an offsetting liability included in due to affiliates, at an amount equal to the lesser of 3% of cumulative capital raised to date or actual costs incurred from third-parties less reimbursements paid to our advisor. As the actual equity is

raised, we reverse the deferred offering costs accrual and recognize a charge to stockholders' equity upon reimbursing our advisor.

Table of Contents

PRIOR PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The information presented in this section represents the historical experience of real estate programs managed by Wells Capital, our advisor, and its affiliates. Investors in the Wells REIT should not assume that they will experience returns, if any, comparable to those experienced by investors in such prior Wells real estate programs.

Of the 14 publicly offered real estate limited partnerships in which Leo F. Wells, III has served as a general partner, 13 of such limited partnerships have completed their respective offerings. These 13 limited partnerships and the year in which each of their offerings was completed are:

1. Wells Real Estate Fund I (1986),
2. Wells Real Estate Fund II (1988),
3. Wells Real Estate Fund II-OW (1988),
4. Wells Real Estate Fund III, L.P. (1990),
5. Wells Real Estate Fund IV, L.P. (1992),
6. Wells Real Estate Fund V, L.P. (1993),
7. Wells Real Estate Fund VI, L.P. (1994),
8. Wells Real Estate Fund VII, L.P. (1995),
9. Wells Real Estate Fund VIII, L.P. (1996),
10. Wells Real Estate Fund IX, L.P. (1996),

11. Wells Real Estate Fund X, L.P. (1997),

12. Wells Real Estate Fund XI, L.P. (1998), and

13. Wells Real Estate Fund XII, L.P. (2001).

In addition to the foregoing real estate limited partnerships, Wells Capital and its affiliates have sponsored three prior public offerings of shares of common stock of the Wells REIT. The initial public offering of the Wells REIT began on January 30, 1998 and was terminated on December 19, 1999. We received gross proceeds of approximately \$132,181,919 from the sale of approximately 13,218,192 shares in our initial public offering. We commenced our second public offering of shares of common stock of the Wells REIT on December 20, 1999 and terminated the second offering on December 19, 2000. We received gross proceeds of approximately \$175,229,193 from the sale of approximately 17,522,919 shares in our second public offering. We commenced our third public offering of shares of common stock of the Wells REIT on December 20, 2000. As of June 30, 2002, we had received gross proceeds of approximately \$1,148,480,414 from the sale of approximately 114,848,041 shares in our third public offering. Accordingly, as of June 30, 2002, we had received aggregate gross offering proceeds of approximately \$1,455,891,526 from the sale of approximately 145,589,153 shares in our three prior public offerings. After payment of \$50,528,371 in acquisition and advisory fees and acquisition expenses, payment of \$163,576,134 in selling commissions and organization and offering expenses, and common stock redemptions of \$12,223,808 pursuant to our share redemption program, as of June 30, 2002, we had raised aggregate net offering proceeds available for investment in properties of \$1,229,563,213, out of which \$885,294,095 had been invested in real estate properties, and \$344,269,118 remained available for investment in real estate properties.

Wells Capital and its affiliates are also currently sponsoring a public offering of 4,500,000 units on behalf of Wells Real Estate Fund XIII, L.P. (Wells Fund XIII), a public limited partnership. Wells Fund XIII began its offering on March 29, 2001 and, as of June 30, 2002, Wells Fund XIII had raised gross offering proceeds of \$18,634,296 from 926 investors.

The Prior Performance Tables included in the back of this prospectus set forth information as of the dates indicated regarding certain of these Wells programs as to (1) experience in raising and investing funds (Table I); (2) compensation to sponsor (Table II); (3) annual operating results of prior programs (Table III); and (4) sales or disposals of properties (Table V).

Table of Contents

In addition to the real estate programs sponsored by Wells Capital and its affiliates discussed above, they are also sponsoring an index mutual fund that invests in various REIT stocks known as the Wells S&P REIT Index Fund (REIT Index Fund). The REIT Index Fund is a mutual fund that seeks to provide investment results corresponding to the performance of the S&P REIT Index by investing in the REIT stocks included in the S&P REIT Index. The REIT Index Fund began its offering on January 12, 1998 and, as of June 30, 2002, had raised offering proceeds net of redemptions of \$136,709,717 from 6,719 investors.

Publicly Offered Unspecified Real Estate Programs

Wells Capital and its affiliates have previously sponsored the above listed 13 publicly offered real estate limited partnerships and are currently sponsoring Wells Fund XIII offered on an unspecified property or blind pool basis. The total amount of funds raised from investors in the offerings of these 14 publicly offered limited partnerships, as of December 31, 2001, was \$331,193,410, and the total number of investors in such programs was 27,103.

The investment objectives of each of the other Wells programs are substantially identical to the investment objectives of the Wells REIT. Substantially all of the proceeds of the offerings of Wells Fund I, Wells Fund II, Wells Fund II-OW, Wells Fund III, Wells Fund IV, Wells Fund V, Wells Fund VI, Wells Fund VII, Wells Fund VIII, Wells Fund IX, Wells Fund X, Wells Fund XI and Wells Fund XII available for investment in real properties have been invested in properties.

Because of the cyclical nature of the real estate market, decreases in net income of the public partnerships could occur at any time in the future when economic conditions decline. No assurance can be made that the Wells programs will ultimately be successful in meeting their investment objectives. (See Risk Factors.)

The aggregate dollar amount of the acquisition and development costs of the properties purchased by the 14 publicly offered limited partnerships, as of December 31, 2001, was \$275,358,446. Of this amount, approximately 90.2% was spent on acquiring or developing office buildings, and approximately 9.8% was spent on acquiring or developing shopping centers. Of this amount, approximately 22.6% was or will be spent on new properties, 57.1% on existing or used properties and 20.3% on construction properties. Following is a table showing a breakdown of the aggregate amount of the acquisition and development costs of the properties purchased by the Wells REIT, Wells Fund XIII and the 13 Wells programs listed above as of December 31, 2001:

<u>Type of Property</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Construction</u>
Office and Industrial Buildings	22.59%	53.88%	13.74%
Shopping Centers	0%	3.21%	6.58%

Wells Fund I terminated its offering on September 5, 1986, and received gross proceeds of \$35,321,000 representing subscriptions from 4,895 limited partners (\$24,679,000 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class A Units, and \$10,642,000 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class B Units). Limited partners in Wells Fund I have no right to change the status of their units from Class A to Class B or vice versa. Wells Fund I owns interests in the following properties:

a condominium interest in a three-story medical office building in Atlanta, Georgia;

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

a commercial office building in Atlanta, Georgia;

a shopping center in Knoxville, Tennessee; and

a project consisting of seven office buildings and a shopping center in Tucker, Georgia.

Table of Contents

The prospectus of Wells Fund I provided that the properties purchased by Wells Fund I would typically be held for a period of eight to 12 years, but that the general partners may exercise their discretion on as to whether and when to sell the properties owned by Wells Fund I and that the general partners were under no obligation to sell the properties at any particular time.

Wells Fund I has sold the following properties from its portfolio:

<u>Date of Sale</u>	<u>Property Name</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Net Sale Proceeds</u>	<u>Taxable Gain</u>
Aug. 31, 2000	One of two buildings at Peachtree Place	90%	\$ 633,694	\$ 205,019
Jan. 11, 2001	Crowe s Crossing	100%	\$ 6,569,000	\$ 11,496
Oct. 1, 2001	Cherokee Commons	24%	\$ 2,037,315	\$ 52,461

Wells Fund I is in the process of marketing its remaining properties for sale.

Wells Fund II and Wells Fund II-OW terminated their offerings on September 7, 1988, and received aggregate gross proceeds of \$36,870,250 representing subscriptions from 4,659 limited partners (\$28,829,000 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class A Units, and \$8,041,250 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class B Units). Limited partners in Wells Fund II and Wells Fund II-OW have no right to change the status of their units from Class A to Class B or vice versa. Wells Fund II and Wells Fund II-OW own all of their properties through a joint venture, which owns interests in the following properties:

- a project consisting of seven office buildings and a shopping center in Tucker, Georgia;
- a two-story office building in Charlotte, North Carolina which is currently unoccupied;
- a four-story office building in Houston, Texas, three floors of which are leased to Boeing;
- a restaurant property in Roswell, Georgia leased to Brookwood Grill of Roswell, Inc.; and
- a combined retail center and office development in Roswell, Georgia.

The prospectus of Wells Fund II and Wells Fund II-OW provided that the properties purchased by Wells Fund II and Wells Fund II-OW would typically be held for a period of eight to 12 years, but that the general partners may exercise their discretion as to whether and when to sell the properties owned by Wells Fund II and Wells Fund II-OW and that the partnerships were under no obligation to sell their properties at any particular time.

Wells Fund II and Wells Fund II-OW sold the following property from its portfolio in 2001:

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

<u>Date of Sale</u>	<u>Property Name</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Net Sale Proceeds</u>	<u>Taxable Gain</u>
Oct. 1, 2001	Cherokee Commons	54%	\$ 4,601,723	\$ 111,419

Wells Fund II and Wells Fund II-OW are in the process of marketing their remaining properties for sale.

Table of Contents

Wells Fund III terminated its offering on October 23, 1990, and received gross proceeds of \$22,206,310 representing subscriptions from 2,700 limited partners (\$19,661,770 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class A Units, and \$2,544,540 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class B Units). Limited partners in Wells Fund III have no right to change the status of their units from Class A to Class B or vice versa. Wells Fund III owns interests in the following properties:

a four-story office building in Houston, Texas, three floors of which are leased to Boeing;

a restaurant property in Roswell, Georgia leased to Brookwood Grill of Roswell, Inc.;

a combined retail center and office development in Roswell, Georgia;

a two-story office building in Greenville, North Carolina;

a shopping center in Stockbridge, Georgia having Kroger as the anchor tenant; and

a two-story office building in Richmond, Virginia leased to Reciprocal Group.

The prospectus of Wells Fund III provided that the properties purchased by Wells Fund III would typically be held for a period of eight to 12 years, but that the general partners may exercise their discretion as to whether and when to sell the properties owned by Wells Fund III and that they were under no obligation to sell the properties at any particular time. The general partners of Wells Fund III have decided to begin the process of positioning the properties for sale over the next several years.

Wells Fund IV terminated its offering on February 29, 1992, and received gross proceeds of \$13,614,655 representing subscriptions from 1,286 limited partners (\$13,229,150 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class A Units, and \$385,505 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class B Units). Limited partners in Wells Fund IV have no right to change the status of their units from Class A to Class B or vice versa. Wells Fund IV owns interests in the following properties:

a shopping center in Stockbridge, Georgia having Kroger as the anchor tenant;

a four-story office building in Jacksonville, Florida leased to IBM and Customized Transportation Inc. (CTI);

a two-story office building in Richmond, Virginia leased to Reciprocal Group; and

two substantially identical two-story office buildings in Stockbridge, Georgia.

Wells Fund V terminated its offering on March 3, 1993, and received gross proceeds of \$17,006,020 representing subscriptions from 1,667 limited partners (\$15,209,666 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class A Units, and \$1,796,354 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class B Units). Limited partners in Wells Fund V who purchased Class B Units are entitled to change the status of their units to Class A, but limited partners who purchased Class A Units are not entitled to change the status of their units to Class B. After taking into effect conversion elections made by limited partners subsequent to their subscription for units, as of December 31, 2001, \$15,664,160 of units of

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

Wells Fund V were treated as Class A Units, and \$1,341,860 of units were treated as Class B Units. Wells Fund V owns interests in the following properties:

a four-story office building in Jacksonville, Florida leased to IBM and CTI;

two substantially identical two-story office buildings in Stockbridge, Georgia;

Table of Contents

a four-story office building in Hartford, Connecticut leased to Hartford Fire Insurance Company;

restaurant properties in Stockbridge, Georgia leased to Apple Restaurants, Inc., Taco Mac, Dependable Ins and Tokyo Japanese Steak;
and

a three-story office building in Appleton, Wisconsin leased to Jaako Poyry Fluor Daniel.

Wells Fund VI terminated its offering on April 4, 1994, and received gross proceeds of \$25,000,000 representing subscriptions from 1,793 limited partners (\$19,332,176 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class A Units, and \$5,667,824 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class B Units). Limited partners in Wells Fund VI are entitled to change the status of their units from Class A to Class B and vice versa. After taking into effect conversion elections made by limited partners subsequent to their subscription for units, as of December 31, 2001, \$22,363,610 of units of Wells Fund VI were treated as Class A Units, and \$2,636,390 of units were treated as Class B Units. Wells Fund VI owns interests in the following properties:

a four-story office building in Hartford, Connecticut leased to Hartford Fire Insurance Company;

restaurant properties in Stockbridge, Georgia leased to Apple Restaurants, Inc., Taco Mac, Dependable Insurance and Tokyo Japanese Steak;

a restaurant and retail building in Stockbridge, Georgia;

a shopping center in Stockbridge, Georgia;

a three-story office building in Appleton, Wisconsin leased to Jaako Poyry Fluor Daniel;

a combined retail and office development in Roswell, Georgia;

a four-story office building in Jacksonville, Florida leased to Bellsouth Advertising and Publishing Corporation and American Express Travel Related Services Company, Inc.; and

a shopping center in Clemmons, North Carolina having Harris Teeter, Inc. as the anchor tenant.

Wells Fund VI sold its interest in the following property in 2001:

<u>Date of Sale</u>	<u>Property Name</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Net Sale Proceeds</u>	<u>Taxable Gain</u>
Oct. 1, 2001	Cherokee Commons	11%	\$ 903,122	\$ 21,867

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

Wells Fund VII terminated its offering on January 5, 1995, and received gross proceeds of \$24,180,174 representing subscriptions from 1,910 limited partners (\$16,788,095 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class A Units, and \$7,392,079 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class B Units). Limited partners in Wells Fund VII are entitled to change the status of their units from Class A to Class B and vice versa. After taking into effect conversion elections made by limited partners subsequent to their subscriptions for units, as of December 31, 2001, \$20,670,201 of units in Wells Fund VII were treated as Class A Units, and \$3,509,973 of units were treated as Class B Units. Wells Fund VII owns interests in the following properties:

Table of Contents

a three-story office building in Appleton, Wisconsin leased to Jaako Poyry Fluor Daniel;

a restaurant and retail building in Stockbridge, Georgia;

a shopping center in Stockbridge, Georgia;

a combined retail and office development in Roswell, Georgia;

a two-story office building in Alachua County, Florida near Gainesville leased to CH2M Hill, Engineers, Planners, Economists, Scientists;

a four-story office building in Jacksonville, Florida leased to Bellsouth Advertising and Publishing Corporation and American Express Travel Related Services Company, Inc.;

a shopping center in Clemmons, North Carolina having Harris Teeter, Inc. as the anchor tenant; and

a retail development in Clayton County, Georgia.

Wells Fund VII sold its interest in the following property in 2001:

<u>Date of Sale</u>	<u>Property Name</u>	<u>% Ownership</u>	<u>Net Sale Proceeds</u>	<u>Taxable Gain</u>
Oct. 1, 2001	Cherokee Commons	11%	\$ 903,122	\$ 21,867

Wells Fund VIII terminated its offering on January 4, 1996, and received gross proceeds of \$32,042,689 representing subscriptions from 2,241 limited partners (\$26,135,339 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class A Units, and \$5,907,350 were attributable to sales of Class B Units). Limited partners in Wells Fund VIII are entitled to change the status of their units from Class A to Class B and vice versa. After taking into effect conversion elections made by limited partners subsequent to their subscriptions for units and certain repurchases made by Wells Fund VIII, as of December 31, 2001, \$28,065,187 of units in Wells Fund VIII were treated as Class A Units, and \$3,967,502 of units were treated as Class B Units. Wells Fund VIII owns interests in the following properties:

a two-story office building in Alachua County, Florida near Gainesville leased to CH2M Hill, Engineers, Planners, Economists, Scientists;

a four-story office building in Jacksonville, Florida leased to Bellsouth Advertising and Publishing Corporation and American Express Travel Related Services Company, Inc.;

a shopping center in Clemmons, North Carolina having Harris Teeter, Inc. as the anchor tenant;

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

a retail development in Clayton County, Georgia;

a four-story office building in Madison, Wisconsin leased to US Cellular, a subsidiary of Bellsouth Corporation;

a one-story office building in Farmers Branch, Texas leased to TCI Valwood Limited Partnership I;

a two-story office building in Orange County, California leased to Quest Software, Inc.; and

a two-story office building in Boulder County, Colorado leased to Cirrus Logic, Inc.

Table of Contents

Wells Fund IX terminated its offering on December 30, 1996, and received gross proceeds of \$35,000,000 representing subscriptions from 2,098 limited partners (\$29,359,310 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class A Units, and \$5,640,690 were attributable to sales of Class B Units). After taking into effect conversion elections made by limited partners subsequent to their subscriptions for units, as of December 31, 2001, \$31,364,290 of units in Wells Fund IX were treated as Class A Units, and \$3,635,710 of units were treated as Class B Units. Wells Fund IX owns interests in the following properties:

- a one-story office building in Farmers Branch, Texas leased to TCI Valwood Limited Partnership I;
- a four-story office building in Madison, Wisconsin leased to US Cellular, a subsidiary of Bellsouth Corporation;
- a two-story office building in Orange County, California leased to Quest Software, Inc.;
- a two-story office building in Boulder County, Colorado leased to Cirrus Logic, Inc.;
- a two-story office building in Boulder County, Colorado leased to Ohmeda, Inc.;
- a three-story office building in Knox County, Tennessee leased to Alstom Power, Inc.;
- a one-story office and warehouse building in Weber County, Utah leased to Iomega Corporation;
- a three-story office multi-tenant building in Boulder County, Colorado; and
- a one-story office building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma leased to Avaya, Inc.

Certain financial information for Wells Fund IX is summarized below:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Gross Revenues	\$ 1,874,290	\$ 1,836,768	\$ 1,593,734	\$ 1,561,456	\$ 1,199,300
Net Income	\$ 1,768,474	\$ 1,758,676	\$ 1,490,331	\$ 1,449,955	\$ 1,091,766

Wells Fund X terminated its offering on December 30, 1997, and received gross proceeds of \$27,128,912 representing subscriptions from 1,812 limited partners (\$21,160,992 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class A Units, and \$5,967,920 were attributable to sales of Class B Units). After taking into effect conversion elections made by limited partners subsequent to their subscriptions for units, as of December 31, 2001, \$23,166,181 of units in Wells Fund X were treated as Class A Units and \$3,962,731 of units were treated as Class B Units. Wells Fund X owns interests in the following properties:

- a three-story office building in Knox County, Tennessee leased to Alstom Power, Inc.;

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

a two-story office building in Boulder County, Colorado leased to Ohmeda, Inc.;

a one-story office and warehouse building in Weber County, Utah leased to Iomega Corporation;

a three-story multi-tenant office building in Boulder County, Colorado;

a one-story office building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma leased to Avaya, Inc.;

Table of Contents

a one-story office and warehouse building in Orange County, California leased to Cort Furniture Rental Corporation; and

a two-story office and manufacturing building in Alameda County, California leased to Fairchild Technologies U.S.A., Inc.

Certain financial information for Wells Fund X is summarized below:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Gross Revenues	\$ 1,559,026	\$ 1,557,518	\$ 1,309,281	\$ 1,204,597	\$ 372,507
Net Income	\$ 1,449,849	\$ 1,476,180	\$ 1,192,318	\$ 1,050,329	\$ 278,025

Wells Fund XI terminated its offering on December 30, 1998, and received gross proceeds of \$16,532,802 representing subscriptions from 1,345 limited partners (\$13,029,424 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of Class A Units and \$3,503,378 were attributable to sales of Class B Units). After taking into effect conversion elections made by limited partners subsequent to their subscriptions for units, as of December 31, 2001, \$13,462,560 of units in Wells Fund XI were treated as Class A Units and \$3,070,242 of units were treated as Class B Units. Wells Fund XI owns interests in the following properties:

a three-story office building in Knox County, Tennessee leased to Alstom Power, Inc.;

a one-story office building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma leased to Avaya, Inc.;

a two-story office building in Boulder County, Colorado leased to Ohmeda, Inc.;

a three-story multi-tenant office building in Boulder County, Colorado;

a one-story office and warehouse building in Weber County, Utah leased to Iomega Corporation;

a one-story office and warehouse building in Orange County, California leased to Cort Furniture Rental Corporation;

a two-story office and manufacturing building in Alameda County, California leased to Fairchild Technologies U.S.A., Inc.;

a two-story manufacturing and office building in Greenville County, South Carolina leased to EYBL CarTex, Inc.;

a three-story office building in Johnson County, Kansas leased to Sprint Communications Company L.P.;

a two-story research and development office and warehouse building in Chester County, Pennsylvania leased to Johnson Matthey, Inc.; and

a two-story office building in Fort Myers, Florida leased to Gartner Group, Inc.

Certain financial information for Wells Fund XI is summarized below:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
Gross Revenues	\$ 960,676	\$ 975,850	\$ 766,586	\$ 262,729
Net Income	\$ 870,350	\$ 895,989	\$ 630,528	\$ 143,295

Table of Contents

Wells Fund XII terminated its offering on March 21, 2001, and received gross proceeds of \$35,611,192 representing subscriptions from 1,333 limited partners (\$26,888,609 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of cash preferred units and \$8,722,583 were attributable to sales of tax preferred units). After taking into effect conversion elections made by limited partners subsequent to their subscriptions for units, as of December 31, 2001, \$27,786,067 of units in Wells Fund XII were treated as cash preferred units and \$7,825,125 of units were treated as tax preferred units. Wells Fund XII owns interests in the following properties:

a two-story manufacturing and office building in Greenville County, South Carolina leased to EYBL CarTex, Inc.;

a three-story office building in Johnson County, Kansas leased to Sprint Communications Company L.P.;

a two-story research and development office and warehouse building in Chester County, Pennsylvania leased to Johnson Matthey, Inc.;

a two-story office building in Fort Myers, Florida leased to Gartner Group, Inc.;

a three-story office building in Troy, Michigan leased to Siemens Automotive Corporation;

a one-story office building and a connecting two-story office building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma leased to AT&T Corp. and Jordan Associates, Inc.; and

a three-story office building in Brentwood, Tennessee leased to Comdata Network, Inc.

Certain financial information for Wells Fund XII is summarized below:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
Gross Revenues	\$ 1,661,194	\$ 929,868	\$ 160,379
Net Income	\$ 1,555,418	\$ 856,228	\$ 122,817

Wells Fund XIII began its offering on March 29, 2001. As of June 30, 2002, Wells Fund XIII had received gross proceeds of \$18,634,296 representing subscriptions from 926 limited partners (\$15,743,298 of the gross proceeds were attributable to sales of cash preferred units and \$2,890,998 were attributable to sales of tax preferred units). Wells Fund XIII owns interests in the following properties:

a two-story office building in Orange Park, Florida leased to AmeriCredit Financial Services Corporation; and

two connected one-story office and assembly buildings in Parker, Colorado leased to Advanced Digital Information Corporation.

The information set forth above should not be considered indicative of results to be expected from the Wells REIT.

The foregoing properties in which the above 14 limited partnerships have invested have all been acquired on an all cash basis.

Table of Contents

Leo F. Wells, III and Wells Partners, L.P. are the general partners of Wells Fund IV, Wells Fund V, Wells Fund VI, Wells Fund VII, Wells Fund VIII, Wells Fund IX, Wells Fund X, Wells Fund XI and Wells Fund XII. Wells Capital, which is the general partner of Wells Partners, L.P., and Leo F. Wells, III are the general partners of Wells Fund I, Wells Fund II, Wells Fund II-OW, Wells Fund III and Wells Fund XIII.

Potential investors are encouraged to examine the Prior Performance Tables included in the back of the prospectus for more detailed information regarding the prior experience of Wells Capital and its affiliates. In addition, upon request, prospective investors may obtain from us without charge copies of offering materials and any reports prepared in connection with any of the Wells programs, including a copy of the most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. For a reasonable fee, we will also furnish upon request copies of the exhibits to any such Form 10-K. Any such request should be directed to our secretary. Additionally, Table VI contained in Part II of the registration statement, which is not part of this prospectus, gives certain additional information relating to properties acquired by the Wells programs. We will furnish, without charge, copies of such table upon request.

FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

General

The following is a summary of material federal income tax considerations associated with an investment in the shares. This summary does not address all possible tax considerations that may be material to an investor and does not constitute tax advice. Moreover, this summary does not deal with all tax aspects that might be relevant to you, as a prospective stockholder, in light of your personal circumstances; nor does it deal with particular types of stockholders that are subject to special treatment under the Internal Revenue Code, such as insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations, financial institutions or broker-dealers, or foreign corporations or persons who are not citizens or residents of the United States (Non-U.S. stockholders). The Internal Revenue Code provisions governing the federal income tax treatment of REITs are highly technical and complex, and this summary is qualified in its entirety by the express language of applicable Internal Revenue Code provisions, Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder and administrative and judicial interpretations thereof.

We urge you, as a prospective investor, to consult your own tax advisor regarding the specific tax consequences to you of a purchase of shares, ownership and sale of the shares and of our election to be taxed as a REIT, including the federal, state, local, foreign and other tax consequences of such purchase, ownership, sale and election.

Opinion of Counsel

Holland & Knight LLP (Holland & Knight) has acted as our counsel, has reviewed this summary and is of the opinion that it fairly summarizes the federal income tax considerations addressed that are material to stockholders. It is also the opinion of our counsel that it is more likely than not that we qualified to be taxed as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code for our taxable year ended December 31, 2001, provided that we have operated and will continue to operate in accordance with various assumptions and the factual representations we made to counsel concerning our business, properties and operations. We must emphasize that all opinions issued by Holland & Knight are based on various assumptions and are conditioned upon the assumptions and representations we made concerning our business and properties. Moreover, our qualification for taxation as a REIT depends on our ability to meet the various qualification tests imposed under the Internal Revenue Code discussed below, the results

Table of Contents

of which will not be reviewed by Holland & Knight. Accordingly, we cannot assure you that the actual results of our operations for any one taxable year will satisfy these requirements. (See Risk Factors Failure to Qualify as a REIT.)

The statements made in this section of the prospectus and in the opinion of Holland & Knight are based upon existing law and Treasury Regulations, as currently applicable, currently published administrative positions of the Internal Revenue Service and judicial decisions, all of which are subject to change, either prospectively or retroactively. We cannot assure you that any changes will not modify the conclusions expressed in our counsel's opinion. Moreover, an opinion of counsel is not binding on the Internal Revenue Service and we cannot assure you that the Internal Revenue Service will not successfully challenge our status as a REIT.

Taxation of the Company

If we qualify for taxation as a REIT, we generally will not be subject to federal corporate income taxes on that portion of our ordinary income or capital gain that we distribute currently to our stockholders, because the REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code generally allow a REIT to deduct distributions paid to its stockholders. This substantially eliminates the federal double taxation on earnings (taxation at both the corporate level and stockholder level) that usually results from an investment in a corporation.

Even if we qualify for taxation as a REIT, however, we will be subject to federal income taxation as follows:

we will be taxed at regular corporate rates on our undistributed REIT taxable income, including undistributed net capital gains;

under some circumstances, we will be subject to alternative minimum tax ;

if we have net income from the sale or other disposition of foreclosure property that is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business or other non-qualifying income from foreclosure property, we will be subject to tax at the highest corporate rate on that income;

if we have net income from prohibited transactions (which are, in general, sales or other dispositions of property other than foreclosure property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business), the income will be subject to a 100% tax;

if we fail to satisfy either of the 75% or 95% gross income tests (discussed below) but have nonetheless maintained our qualification as a REIT because certain conditions have been met, we will be subject to a 100% tax on an amount equal to the greater of the amount by which we fail the 75% or 95% test multiplied by a fraction calculated to reflect our profitability;

if we fail to distribute during each year at least the sum of (1) 85% of our REIT ordinary income for the year, (2) 95% of our REIT capital gain net income for such year, and (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, we will be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the amounts actually distributed; and

if we acquire any asset from a C corporation (i.e., a corporation generally subject to corporate-level tax) in a carryover-basis transaction and we subsequently recognize gain on the disposition of the asset during the 10-year period beginning on the date on which

Table of Contents

we acquired the asset, then a portion of the gains may be subject to tax at the highest regular corporate rate, pursuant to guidelines issued by the Internal Revenue Service (Built-In-Gain Rules).

Requirements for Qualification as a REIT

We elected to be taxable as a REIT for our taxable year ended December 31, 1998. In order for us to qualify as a REIT, however, we had to meet and we must continue to meet the requirements discussed below relating to our organization, sources of income, nature of assets and distributions of income to our stockholders.

Organizational Requirements

In order to qualify for taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, we must:

be a domestic corporation;

elect to be taxed as a REIT and satisfy relevant filing and other administrative requirements;

be managed by one or more trustees or directors;

have transferable shares;

not be a financial institution or an insurance company;

use a calendar year for federal income tax purposes;

have at least 100 stockholders for at least 335 days of each taxable year of 12 months; and

not be closely held.

As a Maryland corporation, we satisfy the first requirement, and we have filed an election to be taxed as a REIT with the IRS. In addition, we are managed by a board of directors, we have transferable shares, and we do not intend to operate as a financial institution or insurance company. We utilize the calendar year for federal income tax purposes, and we have more than 100 stockholders. We would be treated as closely held only if five or fewer individuals or certain tax-exempt entities own, directly or indirectly, more than 50% (by value) of our shares at any time during the last half of our taxable year. For purposes of the closely-held test, the Internal Revenue Code generally permits a look-through for pension funds and certain other tax-exempt entities to the beneficiaries of the entity to determine if the REIT is closely held. Five or fewer individuals or tax-exempt entities have never owned more than 50% of our outstanding shares during the last half of any taxable year.

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

We are authorized to refuse to transfer our shares to any person if the sale or transfer would jeopardize our ability to satisfy the REIT ownership requirements. There can be no assurance that a refusal to transfer will be effective. However, based on the foregoing, we should currently satisfy the organizational requirements, including the share ownership requirements. Notwithstanding compliance with the share ownership requirements outlined above, tax-exempt stockholders may be required to treat all or a portion of their distributions from us as unrelated business taxable income if tax-exempt stockholders, in the aggregate, exceed certain ownership thresholds set forth in the Internal Revenue Code. (See Taxation of Tax-Exempt Stockholders.)

Table of Contents

Ownership of Interests in Partnerships and Qualified REIT Subsidiaries

In the case of a REIT that is a partner in a partnership, Treasury Regulations provide that the REIT is deemed to own its proportionate share, based on its interest in partnership capital, of the assets of the partnership and is deemed to have earned its allocable share of partnership income. Also, if a REIT owns a qualified REIT subsidiary, which is defined as a corporation wholly-owned by a REIT, the REIT will be deemed to own all of the subsidiary's assets and liabilities and it will be deemed to be entitled to treat the income of that subsidiary as its own. In addition, the character of the assets and gross income of the partnership or qualified REIT subsidiary shall retain the same character in the hands of the REIT for purposes of satisfying the gross income tests and asset tests set forth in the Internal Revenue Code.

Operational Requirements - Gross Income Tests

To maintain our qualification as a REIT, we must satisfy annually two gross income requirements.

At least 75% of our gross income, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, for each taxable year must be derived directly or indirectly from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property. Gross income includes rents from real property and, in some circumstances, interest, but excludes gross income from dispositions of property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of a trade or business. Such dispositions are referred to as prohibited transactions. This is the 75% Income Test.

At least 95% of our gross income, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, for each taxable year must be derived from the real property investments described above and from distributions, interest and gains from the sale or disposition of stock or securities or from any combination of the foregoing. This is the 95% Income Test.

The rents we receive or that we are deemed to receive qualify as rents from real property for purposes of satisfying the gross income requirements for a REIT only if the following conditions are met:

the amount of rent received from a tenant generally must not be based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person; however, an amount received or accrued generally will not be excluded from the term rents from real property solely by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of gross receipts or sales;

rents received from a tenant will not qualify as rents from real property if an owner of 10% or more of the REIT directly or constructively owns 10% or more of the tenant (a Related Party Tenant) or a subtenant of the tenant (in which case only rent attributable to the subtenant is disqualified);

if rent attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property is greater than 15% of the total rent received under the lease, then the portion of rent attributable to the personal property will not qualify as rents from real property ; and

Table of Contents

the REIT must not operate or manage the property or furnish or render services to tenants, other than through an independent contractor who is adequately compensated and from whom the REIT does not derive any income. However, a REIT may provide services with respect to its properties, and the income derived therefrom will qualify as rents from real property, if the services are usually or customarily rendered in connection with the rental of space only and are not otherwise considered rendered to the occupant. Even if the services with respect to a property are impermissible tenant services, the income derived therefrom will qualify as rents from real property if such income does not exceed one percent of all amounts received or accrued with respect to that property.

Prior to the making of investments in properties, we may satisfy the 75% Income Test and the 95% Income Test by investing in liquid assets such as government securities or certificates of deposit, but earnings from those types of assets are qualifying income under the 75% Income Test only for one year from the receipt of proceeds. Accordingly, to the extent that offering proceeds have not been invested in properties prior to the expiration of this one year period, in order to satisfy the 75% Income Test, we may invest the offering proceeds in less liquid investments approved by our board of directors such as mortgage-backed securities or shares in other REITs. We intend to trace offering proceeds received for purposes of determining the one year period for new capital investments. No rulings or regulations have been issued under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code governing new capital investments, however, so that there can be no assurance that the Internal Revenue Service will agree with this method of calculation.

Except for amounts received with respect to certain investments of cash reserves, we anticipate that substantially all of our gross income will be derived from sources that will allow us to satisfy the income tests described above; however, we can make no assurance in this regard.

Notwithstanding our failure to satisfy one or both of the 75% Income and the 95% Income Tests for any taxable year, we may still qualify as a REIT for that year if we are eligible for relief under specific provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. These relief provisions generally will be available if:

our failure to meet these tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect;

we attach a schedule of our income sources to our federal income tax return; and

any incorrect information on the schedule is not due to fraud with intent to evade tax.

It is not possible, however, to state whether, in all circumstances, we would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions. For example, if we fail to satisfy the gross income tests because nonqualifying income that we intentionally earn exceeds the limits on this income, the Internal Revenue Service could conclude that our failure to satisfy the tests was not due to reasonable cause. As discussed above in Taxation of the Company, even if these relief provisions apply, a tax would be imposed with respect to the excess net income.

Operational Requirements Asset Tests

At the close of each quarter of our taxable year, we also must satisfy the following three tests (Asset Tests) relating to the nature and diversification of our assets:

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

First, at least 75% of the value of our total assets must be represented by real estate assets, cash, cash items and government securities.
The term "real estate assets" includes

Table of Contents

real property, mortgages on real property, shares in other qualified REITs and a proportionate share of any real estate assets owned by a partnership in which we are a partner or of any qualified REIT subsidiary of ours;

Second, no more than 25% of our total assets may be represented by securities other than those in the 75% asset class; and

Third, of the investments included in the 25% asset class, the value of any one issuer's securities that we own may not exceed 5% of the value of our total assets. Additionally, we may not own more than 10% of any one issuer's outstanding voting securities, or securities having a value of more than 10% of the total value of the outstanding securities of any one issuer.

These tests must generally be met for any quarter in which we acquire securities. Further, if we meet the Asset Tests at the close of any quarter, we will not lose our REIT status for a failure to satisfy the Asset Tests at the end of a later quarter if such failure occurs solely because of changes in asset values. If our failure to satisfy the Asset Tests results from an acquisition of securities or other property during a quarter, we can cure the failure by disposing of a sufficient amount of nonqualifying assets within 30 days after the close of that quarter. We maintain, and will continue to maintain, adequate records of the value of our assets to ensure compliance with the Asset Tests and will take other action within 30 days after the close of any quarter as may be required to cure any noncompliance.

Operational Requirements Annual Distribution Requirement

In order to be taxed as a REIT, we are required to make dividend distributions, other than capital gain distributions, to our stockholders each year in the amount of at least 90% of our REIT taxable income (computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and our capital gain and subject to certain other potential adjustments).

While we must generally pay dividends in the taxable year to which they relate, we may also pay dividends in the following taxable year if (1) they are declared before we timely file our federal income tax return for the taxable year in question, and if (2) they are paid on or before the first regular dividend payment date after the declaration.

Even if we satisfy the foregoing dividend distribution requirement and, accordingly, continue to qualify as a REIT for tax purposes, we will still be subject to tax on the excess of our net capital gain and our REIT taxable income, as adjusted, over the amount of dividends distributed to stockholders.

In addition, if we fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of:

85% of our ordinary income for that year;

95% of our capital gain net income other than the capital gain net income which we elect to retain and pay tax on for that year; and

any undistributed taxable income from prior periods;

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

we will be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of the amount of such required distributions over amounts actually distributed during such year.

We intend to make timely distributions sufficient to satisfy this requirement; however, we may possibly experience timing differences between (1) the actual receipt of income and payment of

Table of Contents

deductible expenses, and (2) the inclusion of that income. We may also possibly be allocated a share of net capital gain attributable to the sale of depreciated property that exceeds our allocable share of cash attributable to that sale.

In such circumstances, we may have less cash than is necessary to meet our annual distribution requirement or to avoid income or excise taxation on certain undistributed income. We may find it necessary in such circumstances to arrange for financing or raise funds through the issuance of additional shares in order to meet our distribution requirements, or we may make taxable stock distributions to meet the distribution requirement.

If we fail to satisfy the distribution requirement for any taxable year by reason of a later adjustment to our taxable income made by the Internal Revenue Service, we may be able to pay deficiency dividends in a later year and include such distributions in our deductions for dividends paid for the earlier year. In such event, we may be able to avoid being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends, but we would be required in such circumstances to pay interest to the Internal Revenue Service based upon the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends for the earlier year.

As noted above, we may also elect to retain, rather than distribute, our net long-term capital gains. The effect of such an election would be as follows:

we would be required to pay the tax on these gains;

stockholders, while required to include their proportionate share of the undistributed long-term capital gains in income, would receive a credit or refund for their share of the tax paid by the REIT; and

the basis of a stockholder's shares would be increased by the amount of our undistributed long-term capital gains (minus the amount of capital gains tax we pay) included in the stockholder's long-term capital gains.

In computing our REIT taxable income, we will use the accrual method of accounting and depreciate depreciable property under the alternative depreciation system. We are required to file an annual federal income tax return, which, like other corporate returns, is subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service. Because the tax law requires us to make many judgments regarding the proper treatment of a transaction or an item of income or deduction, it is possible that the Internal Revenue Service will challenge positions we take in computing our REIT taxable income and our distributions. Issues could arise, for example, with respect to the allocation of the purchase price of properties between depreciable or amortizable assets and nondepreciable or non-amortizable assets such as land and the current deductibility of fees paid to Wells Capital or its affiliates. Were the Internal Revenue Service to successfully challenge our characterization of a transaction or determination of our REIT taxable income, we could be found to have failed to satisfy a requirement for qualification as a REIT. If, as a result of a challenge, we are determined to have failed to satisfy the distribution requirements for a taxable year, we would be disqualified as a REIT, unless we were permitted to pay a deficiency distribution to our stockholders and pay interest thereon to the Internal Revenue Service, as provided by the Internal Revenue Code. A deficiency distribution cannot be used to satisfy the distribution requirement, however, if the failure to meet the requirement is not due to a later adjustment to our income by the Internal Revenue Service.

Table of Contents

Operational Requirements Recordkeeping

In order to continue to qualify as a REIT, we must maintain certain records as set forth in applicable Treasury Regulations. Further, we must request, on an annual basis, certain information designed to disclose the ownership of our outstanding shares. We intend to comply with such requirements.

Failure to Qualify as a REIT

If we fail to qualify as a REIT for any reason in a taxable year and applicable relief provisions do not apply, we will be subject to tax (including any applicable alternative minimum tax) on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. We will not be able to deduct dividends paid to our stockholders in any year in which we fail to qualify as a REIT. We also will be disqualified for the four taxable years following the year during which qualification was lost unless we are entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions. (See *Risk Factors Federal Income Tax Risks.*)

Sale-Leaseback Transactions

Some of our investments may be in the form of sale-leaseback transactions. In most instances, depending on the economic terms of the transaction, we will be treated for federal income tax purposes as either the owner of the property or the holder of a debt secured by the property. We do not expect to request an opinion of counsel concerning the status of any leases of properties as true leases for federal income tax purposes.

The Internal Revenue Service may take the position that a specific sale-leaseback transaction, which we treat as a true lease, is not a true lease for federal income tax purposes but is, instead, a financing arrangement or loan. We may also structure some sale-leaseback transactions as loans. In this event, for purposes of the Asset Tests and the 75% Income Test, each such loan likely would be viewed as secured by real property to the extent of the fair market value of the underlying property. We expect that, for this purpose, the fair market value of the underlying property would be determined without taking into account our lease. If a sale-leaseback transaction were so recharacterized, we might fail to satisfy the Asset Tests or the Income Tests and, consequently, lose our REIT status effective with the year of recharacterization. Alternatively, the amount of our REIT taxable income could be recalculated which might also cause us to fail to meet the distribution requirement for a taxable year.

Taxation of U.S. Stockholders

Definition

In this section, the phrase *U.S. stockholder* means a holder of shares that for federal income tax purposes:

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

is a citizen or resident of the United States;

is a corporation, partnership or other entity created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any political subdivision thereof;

is an estate or trust, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust if a U.S. court is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

Table of Contents

For any taxable year for which we qualify for taxation as a REIT, amounts distributed to taxable U.S. stockholders will be taxed as described below.

Distributions Generally

Distributions to U.S. stockholders, other than capital gain distributions discussed below, will constitute dividends up to the amount of our current or accumulated earnings and profits and will be taxable to the stockholders as ordinary income. These distributions are not eligible for the dividends received deduction generally available to corporations. To the extent that we make a distribution in excess of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, the distribution will be treated first as a tax-free return of capital, reducing the tax basis in each U.S. stockholder's shares, and the amount of each distribution in excess of a U.S. stockholder's tax basis in its shares will be taxable as gain realized from the sale of its shares. Distributions that we declare in October, November or December of any year payable to a stockholder of record on a specified date in any of these months will be treated as both paid by us and received by the stockholder on December 31 of the year, provided that we actually pay the distribution no later than January 31 of the following calendar year. U.S. stockholders may not include any of our losses on their own federal income tax returns.

We will be treated as having sufficient earnings and profits to treat as a dividend any distribution by us up to the amount required to be distributed in order to avoid imposition of the 4% excise tax discussed above. Moreover, any deficiency distribution will be treated as an ordinary or capital gain distribution, as the case may be, regardless of our earnings and profits. As a result, stockholders may be required to treat as taxable some distributions that would otherwise result in a tax-free return of capital.

Capital Gain Distributions

Distributions to U.S. stockholders that we properly designate as capital gain distributions will be treated as long-term capital gains to the extent they do not exceed our actual net capital gain, for the taxable year without regard to the period for which the U.S. stockholder has held his stock.

Passive Activity Loss and Investment Interest Limitations

Our distributions and any gain you realize from a disposition of shares will not be treated as passive activity income, and stockholders may not be able to utilize any of their passive losses to offset this income on their personal tax returns. Our distributions (to the extent they do not constitute a return of capital) will generally be treated as investment income for purposes of the limitations on the deduction of investment interest. Net capital gain from a disposition of shares and capital gain distributions generally will be included in investment income for purposes of the investment interest deduction limitations only if, and to the extent, you so elect, in which case any such capital gains will be taxed as ordinary income.

Certain Dispositions of the Shares

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

In general, any gain or loss realized upon a taxable disposition of shares by a U.S. stockholder who is not a dealer in securities will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for more than 12 months and as short-term capital gain or loss if the shares have been held for 12 months or less. If, however, a U.S. stockholder has received any capital gains distributions with respect to his shares, any loss realized upon a taxable disposition of shares held for six months or less, to the extent of the capital gains distributions received with respect to his shares, will be treated as long-term capital loss. Also, the Internal Revenue Service is authorized to issue Treasury Regulations that would subject a portion of the capital gain a U.S. stockholder recognizes from selling his shares or from a capital

Table of Contents

gain distribution to a tax at a 25% rate, to the extent the capital gain is attributable to depreciation previously deducted.

Information Reporting Requirements and Backup Withholding for U.S. Stockholders

Under some circumstances, U.S. stockholders may be subject to backup withholding at a rate of 31% on payments made with respect to, or cash proceeds of a sale or exchange of, our shares. Backup withholding will apply only if the stockholder:

fails to furnish his or her taxpayer identification number (which, for an individual, would be his or her Social Security Number);

furnishes an incorrect tax identification number;

is notified by the Internal Revenue Service that he or she has failed properly to report payments of interest and distributions or is otherwise subject to backup withholding; or

under some circumstances, fails to certify, under penalties of perjury, that he or she has furnished a correct tax identification number and that (a) he or she has not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service that he or she is subject to backup withholding for failure to report interest and distribution payments or (b) he or she has been notified by the Internal Revenue Service that he or she is no longer subject to backup withholding.

Backup withholding will not apply with respect to payments made to some stockholders, such as corporations and tax-exempt organizations. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Rather, the amount of any backup withholding with respect to a payment to a U.S. stockholder will be allowed as a credit against the U.S. stockholder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle the U.S. stockholder to a refund, provided that the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service. U.S. stockholders should consult their own tax advisors regarding their qualifications for exemption from backup withholding and the procedure for obtaining an exemption.

Treatment of Tax-Exempt Stockholders

Tax-exempt entities such as employee pension benefit trusts, individual retirement accounts, charitable remainder trusts, etc. generally are exempt from federal income taxation. Such entities are subject to taxation, however, on any unrelated business taxable income (UBTI), as defined in the Internal Revenue Code. Our payment of dividends to a tax-exempt employee pension benefit trust or other domestic tax-exempt stockholder generally will not constitute UBTI to such stockholder unless such stockholder has borrowed to acquire or carry its shares.

In the event that we are deemed to be predominately held by qualified employee pension benefit trusts that each hold more than 10% (in value) of our shares, such trusts would be required to treat a percentage of the dividend distributions paid to them as UBTI. We would be deemed to be predominately held by such trusts if either (1) one employee pension benefit trust owns more than 25% in value of our shares, or (2) any group of such trusts, each owning more than 10% in value of our shares, holds in the aggregate more than 50% in value of our shares. If either of these ownership thresholds were ever exceeded, any qualified employee pension benefit trust holding more than 10% in value of our shares would be subject to tax on that portion of our dividend distributions made to it which is equal to the percentage of our income which would be UBTI if we, ourselves, were a qualified trust, rather than a REIT. We will attempt to monitor the concentration of ownership of employee pension benefit trusts in our shares, and we do not expect our shares to be deemed to be predominately held by qualified

Table of Contents

employee pension benefit trusts, as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, to the extent required to trigger the treatment of our income as UBTI to such trusts.

For social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts and qualified group legal services plans exempt from federal income taxation under Sections 501(c)(7), (c)(9), (c)(17) and (c)(20) of the Internal Revenue Code, respectively, income from an investment in our shares will constitute UBTI unless the stockholder in question is able to deduct amounts set aside or placed in reserve for certain purposes so as to offset the UBTI generated. Any such organization that is a prospective investor in our shares should consult its own tax advisor concerning these set aside and reserve requirements.

Special Tax Considerations for Non-U.S. Stockholders

The rules governing U.S. income taxation of non-resident alien individuals, foreign corporations, foreign partnerships and foreign trusts and estates (collectively, Non-U.S. stockholders) are complex. The following discussion is intended only as a summary of these rules. Non-U.S. stockholders should consult with their own tax advisors to determine the impact of federal, state and local income tax laws on an investment in our shares, including any reporting requirements.

Income Effectively Connected With a U.S. Trade or Business

In general, Non-U.S. stockholders will be subject to regular U.S. federal income taxation with respect to their investment in our shares if the income derived therefrom is effectively connected with the Non-U.S. stockholder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States. A corporate Non-U.S. stockholder that receives income that is (or is treated as) effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business also may be subject to a branch profits tax under Section 884 of the Internal Revenue Code, which is payable in addition to the regular U.S. federal corporate income tax.

The following discussion will apply to Non-U.S. stockholders whose income derived from ownership of our shares is deemed to be not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business.

Distributions Not Attributable to Gain From the Sale or Exchange of a United States Real Property Interest

A distribution to a Non-U.S. stockholder that is not attributable to gain realized by us from the sale or exchange of a United States real property interest and that we do not designate as a capital gain distribution will be treated as an ordinary income distribution to the extent that it is made out of current or accumulated earnings and profits. Generally, any ordinary income distribution will be subject to a U.S. federal income tax equal to 30% of the gross amount of the distribution unless this tax is reduced by the provisions of an applicable tax treaty. Any such distribution in excess of our earnings and profits will be treated first as a return of capital that will reduce each Non-U.S. stockholder's basis in its shares (but not below zero) and then as gain from the disposition of those shares, the tax treatment of which is described under the rules discussed below with respect to dispositions of shares.

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

Distributions Attributable to Gain From the Sale or Exchange of a United States Real Property Interest

Distributions to a Non-U.S. stockholder that are attributable to gain from the sale or exchange of a United States real property interest will be taxed to a Non-U.S. stockholder under Internal Revenue Code provisions enacted by the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 (FIRPTA). Under FIRPTA, such distributions are taxed to a Non-U.S. stockholder as if the distributions were gains

Table of Contents

effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. Accordingly, a Non-U.S. stockholder will be taxed at the normal capital gain rates applicable to a U.S. stockholder (subject to any applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of non-resident alien individuals). Distributions subject to FIRPTA also may be subject to a 30% branch profits tax when made to a corporate Non-U.S. stockholder that is not entitled to a treaty exemption.

Withholding Obligations With Respect to Distributions to Non-U.S. Stockholders

Although tax treaties may reduce our withholding obligations, based on current law, we will generally be required to withhold from distributions to Non-U.S. stockholders, and remit to the Internal Revenue Service:

35% of designated capital gain distributions or, if greater, 35% of the amount of any distributions that could be designated as capital gain distributions; and

30% of ordinary income distributions (*i.e.*, dividends paid out of our earnings and profits).

In addition, if we designate prior distributions as capital gain distributions, subsequent distributions, up to the amount of the prior distributions, will be treated as capital gain distributions for purposes of withholding. A distribution in excess of our earnings and profits will be subject to 30% withholding if at the time of the distribution it cannot be determined whether the distribution will be in an amount in excess of our current or accumulated earnings and profits. If the amount of tax we withhold with respect to a distribution to a Non-U.S. stockholder exceeds the stockholder's U.S. tax liability with respect to that distribution, the Non-U.S. stockholder may file a claim with the Internal Revenue Service for a refund of the excess.

Sale of Our Shares by a Non-U.S. Stockholder

A sale of our shares by a Non-U.S. stockholder will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income taxation unless our shares constitute a United States real property interest within the meaning of FIRPTA. Our shares will not constitute a United States real property interest if we are a domestically controlled REIT. A domestically controlled REIT is a REIT that at all times during a specified testing period has less than 50% in value of its shares held directly or indirectly by Non-U.S. stockholders. We currently anticipate that we will be a domestically controlled REIT. Therefore, sales of our shares should not be subject to taxation under FIRPTA. However, we cannot assure you that we will continue to be a domestically controlled REIT. If we were not a domestically controlled REIT, whether a Non-U.S. stockholder's sale of our shares would be subject to tax under FIRPTA as a sale of a United States real property interest would depend on whether our shares were regularly traded on an established securities market and on the size of the selling stockholder's interest in us. Our shares currently are not regularly traded on an established securities market.

If the gain on the sale of shares were subject to taxation under FIRPTA, a Non-U.S. stockholder would be subject to the same treatment as a U.S. stockholder with respect to the gain, subject to any applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of non-resident alien individuals. In addition, distributions that are treated as gain from the disposition of shares and are subject to tax under FIRPTA also may be subject to a 30% branch profits tax when made to a corporate Non-U.S. stockholder that is not entitled to a treaty exemption. Under FIRPTA, the purchaser of our shares may be required to withhold 10% of the purchase price and remit this amount to the Internal Revenue Service.

Table of Contents

Even if not subject to FIRPTA, capital gains will be taxable to a Non-U.S. stockholder if the Non-U.S. stockholder is a non-resident alien individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and some other conditions apply, in which case the non-resident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on his or her U.S. source capital gains.

Recently promulgated Treasury Regulations may alter the procedures for claiming the benefits of an income tax treaty. Our Non-U.S. stockholders should consult their tax advisors concerning the effect, if any, of these Treasury Regulations on an investment in our shares.

Information Reporting Requirements and Backup Withholding for Non-U.S. Stockholders

Additional issues may arise for information reporting and backup withholding for Non-U.S. stockholders. Non-U.S. stockholders should consult their tax advisors with regard to U.S. information reporting and backup withholding requirements under the Internal Revenue Code.

Statement of Stock Ownership

We are required to demand annual written statements from the record holders of designated percentages of our shares disclosing the actual owners of the shares. Any record stockholder who, upon our request, does not provide us with required information concerning actual ownership of the shares is required to include specified information relating to his or her shares in his or her federal income tax return. We also must maintain, within the Internal Revenue District in which we are required to file our federal income tax return, permanent records showing the information we have received about the actual ownership of shares and a list of those persons failing or refusing to comply with our demand.

State and Local Taxation

We and any operating subsidiaries we may form may be subject to state and local tax in states and localities in which we or they do business or own property. The tax treatment of the Wells REIT, Wells OP, any operating subsidiaries we may form and the holders of our shares in local jurisdictions may differ from the federal income tax treatment described above.

Tax Aspects of Our Operating Partnership

The following discussion summarizes certain federal income tax considerations applicable to our investment in Wells OP, our operating partnership. The discussion does not cover state or local tax laws or any federal tax laws other than income tax laws.

Classification as a Partnership

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

We will be entitled to include in our income a distributive share of Wells OP's income and to deduct our distributive share of Wells OP's losses only if Wells OP is classified for federal income tax purposes as a partnership, rather than as an association taxable as a corporation. Under applicable Treasury Regulations (Check-the-Box-Regulations), an unincorporated U.S. entity with at least two members may elect to be classified either as an association taxable as a corporation or as a partnership. If such an entity fails to make an election, it generally will be treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. Wells OP intends to be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes and will not elect to be treated as an association taxable as a corporation under the Check-the-Box-Regulations.

Even though Wells OP will be treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, since it will not elect to be taxable as a corporation under the Check-the-Box Regulations, it could still be taxed

Table of Contents

as a corporation if it were deemed to be a publicly traded partnership. A publicly traded partnership is a partnership whose interests are traded on an established securities market or are readily tradable on a secondary market (or the substantial equivalent thereof); provided, that even if the foregoing requirements are met, a publicly traded partnership will not be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes if at least 90% of such partnership's gross income for a taxable year consists of qualifying income under Section 7704(d) of the Internal Revenue Code. Qualifying income generally includes any income that is qualifying income for purposes of the 95% Income Test applicable to REITs (90% Passive-Type Income Exception). (See Requirements for Qualification as a REIT Operational Requirements Gross Income Tests.)

Under applicable Treasury Regulations (PTP Regulations), limited safe harbors from the definition of a publicly traded partnership are provided. Pursuant to one of those safe harbors (Private Placement Exclusion), interests in a partnership will not be treated as readily tradable on a secondary market or the substantial equivalent thereof if (1) all interests in the partnership were issued in a transaction (or transactions) that was not required to be registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and (2) the partnership does not have more than 100 partners at any time during the partnership's taxable year. In determining the number of partners in a partnership, a person owning an interest in a flow-through entity (such as a partnership, grantor trust or S corporation) that owns an interest in the partnership is treated as a partner in such partnership only if (a) substantially all of the value of the owner's interest in the flow-through is attributable to the flow-through entity's interest (direct or indirect) in the partnership, and (b) a principal purpose of the use of the flow-through entity is to permit the partnership to satisfy the 100 partner limitation. Wells OP qualifies for the Private Placement Exclusion. Further, even if Wells OP were to be considered a publicly traded partnership under the PTP Regulations because it is deemed to have more than 100 partners, Wells OP should not be treated as a corporation because it should be eligible for the 90% Passive-Type Income Exception described above.

We have not requested, and do not intend to request, a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service that Wells OP will be classified as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. Holland & Knight is of the opinion, however, that based on certain factual assumptions and representations, Wells OP will more likely than not be treated for federal income tax purposes as a partnership and not as an association taxable as a corporation, or as a publicly traded partnership. Unlike a tax ruling, however, an opinion of counsel is not binding upon the Internal Revenue Service, and no assurance can be given that the Internal Revenue Service will not challenge the status of Wells OP as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. If such challenge were sustained by a court, Wells OP would be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, as described below. In addition, the opinion of Holland & Knight is based on existing law, which is to a great extent the result of administrative and judicial interpretation. No assurance can be given that administrative or judicial changes would not modify the conclusions expressed in the opinion.

If for any reason Wells OP were taxable as a corporation, rather than a partnership, for federal income tax purposes, we would not be able to qualify as a REIT. (See Federal Income Tax Considerations Requirements for Qualification as a REIT Operational Requirements Gross Income Tests and Requirements for Qualification as a REIT Operational Requirements Asset Tests.) In addition, any change in Wells OP's status for tax purposes might be treated as a taxable event, in which case we might incur a tax liability without any related cash distribution. Further, items of income and deduction of Wells OP would not pass through to its partners, and its partners would be treated as stockholders for tax purposes. Consequently, Wells OP would be required to pay income tax at corporate tax rates on its net income, and distributions to its partners would constitute dividends that would not be deductible in computing Wells OP's taxable income.

Table of Contents

Income Taxation of the Operating Partnership and its Partners

Partners, Not a Partnership, Subject to Tax. A partnership is not a taxable entity for federal income tax purposes. As a partner in Wells OP, we will be required to take into account our allocable share of Wells OP's income, gains, losses, deductions, and credits for any taxable year of Wells OP ending within or with our taxable year, without regard to whether we have received or will receive any distribution from Wells OP.

Partnership Allocations. Although a partnership agreement generally determines the allocation of income and losses among partners, such allocations will be disregarded for tax purposes if they do not comply with the provisions of Section 704(b) of the Internal Revenue Code and the Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder. If an allocation is not recognized for federal income tax purposes, the item subject to the allocation will be reallocated in accordance with the partners' interests in the partnership, which will be determined by taking into account all of the facts and circumstances relating to the economic arrangement of the partners with respect to such item. Wells OP's allocations of taxable income and loss are intended to comply with the requirements of Section 704(b) of the Internal Revenue Code and the Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder.

Tax Allocations With Respect to Contributed Properties. Pursuant to Section 704(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, income, gain, loss, and deduction attributable to appreciated or depreciated property that is contributed to a partnership in exchange for an interest in the partnership must be allocated for federal income tax purposes in a manner such that the contributor is charged with, or benefits from, the unrealized gain or unrealized loss associated with the property at the time of the contribution. The amount of such unrealized gain or unrealized loss is generally equal to the difference between the fair market value of the contributed property at the time of contribution and the adjusted tax basis of such property at the time of contribution. Under applicable Treasury Regulations, partnerships are required to use a reasonable method for allocating items subject to Section 704(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and several reasonable allocation methods are described therein.

Under the partnership agreement for Wells OP, depreciation or amortization deductions of Wells OP generally will be allocated among the partners in accordance with their respective interests in Wells OP, except to the extent that Wells OP is required under Section 704(c) to use a method for allocating depreciation deductions attributable to its properties that results in us receiving a disproportionately large share of such deductions. We may possibly be allocated (1) lower amounts of depreciation deductions for tax purposes with respect to contributed properties than would be allocated to us if each such property were to have a tax basis equal to its fair market value at the time of contribution, and (2) taxable gain in the event of a sale of such contributed properties in excess of the economic profit allocated to us as a result of such sale. These allocations may cause us to recognize taxable income in excess of cash proceeds received by us, which might adversely affect our ability to comply with the REIT distribution requirements, although we do not anticipate that this event will occur. The foregoing principles also will affect the calculation of our earnings and profits for purposes of determining which portion of our distributions is taxable as a dividend. The allocations described in this paragraph may result in a higher portion of our distributions being taxed as a dividend than would have occurred had we purchased such properties for cash.

Basis in Operating Partnership Interest. The adjusted tax basis of our partnership interest in Wells OP generally is equal to (1) the amount of cash and the basis of any other property contributed to Wells OP by us, (2) increased by (A) our allocable share of Wells OP's income and (B) our allocable share of the indebtedness of Wells OP, and (3) reduced, but not below zero, by (A) our allocable share of Wells OP's losses and (B) the amount of cash distributed to us, including constructive cash distributions resulting from a reduction in our share of the indebtedness of Wells OP.

Table of Contents

If the allocation of our distributive share of Wells OP's losses would reduce the adjusted tax basis of our partnership interest in Wells OP below zero, the recognition of such losses will be deferred until such time as the recognition of such losses would not reduce our adjusted tax basis below zero. If a distribution from Wells OP or a reduction in our share of Wells OP's liabilities (which is treated as a constructive distribution for tax purposes) would reduce our adjusted tax basis below zero, any such distribution, including a constructive distribution, would cause us to recognize taxable income equal to the amount of such distribution in excess of our adjusted tax basis. The gain realized by us upon the receipt of any such distribution or constructive distribution would normally be characterized as capital gain, and if our partnership interest in Wells OP has been held for longer than the long-term capital gain holding period (currently one year), the distribution would constitute long-term capital gain.

Depreciation Deductions Available to the Operating Partnership. Wells OP will use a portion of contributions made by the Wells REIT from offering proceeds to acquire interests in properties. Wells OP's initial basis in such properties for federal income tax purposes generally will be equal to the purchase price paid by Wells OP. Wells OP plans to depreciate each such depreciable property for federal income tax purposes under the alternative depreciation system of depreciation (ADS). Under ADS, Wells OP generally will depreciate buildings and improvements over a 40-year recovery period using a straight-line method and a mid-month convention and will depreciate furnishings and equipment over a 12-year recovery period. To the extent that Wells OP acquires properties in exchange for units of Wells OP, Wells OP's initial basis in each such property for federal income tax purposes should be the same as the transferor's basis in that property on the date of acquisition by Wells OP. Although the law is not entirely clear, Wells OP generally intends to depreciate such depreciable property for federal income tax purposes over the same remaining useful lives and under the same methods used by the transferors of such properties.

Sale of the Operating Partnership's Property

Generally, any gain realized by Wells OP on the sale of property held for more than one year will be long-term capital gain, except for any portion of such gain that is treated as depreciation or cost recovery recapture. Any gain recognized by Wells OP upon the disposition of a property will be allocated among the partners in accordance with their respective percentage interests in Wells OP.

Our share of any gain realized by Wells OP on the sale of any property held by Wells OP as inventory or other property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of Wells OP's trade or business will be treated as income from a prohibited transaction that is subject to a 100% penalty tax. Such prohibited transaction income also may have an adverse effect upon our ability to satisfy the Income Tests for maintaining our REIT status. (See "Federal Income Tax Considerations—Requirements for Qualification as a REIT—Gross Income Tests" above.) We, however, do not presently intend to acquire or hold or allow Wells OP to acquire or hold any property that represents inventory or other property held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of our or Wells OP's trade or business.

ERISA CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of some non-tax considerations associated with an investment in our shares by a qualified employee pension benefit plan or an individual retirement account (IRA). This summary is based on provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA), and the Internal Revenue Code, as amended through the date of this prospectus, and relevant regulations and opinions issued by the Department of Labor and the Internal Revenue Service. We cannot assure you that there will not be adverse tax decisions or legislative, regulatory or administrative changes which would significantly modify the statements expressed herein. Any such changes may or may not apply to transactions entered into prior to the date of their enactment.

Table of Contents

Each fiduciary of an employee pension benefit plan subject to ERISA, such as a profit sharing, section 401(k) or pension plan, or of any other retirement plan or account subject to Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code, such as an IRA (Benefit Plans), seeking to invest plan assets in our shares must, taking into account the facts and circumstances of such Benefit Plan, consider, among other matters:

whether the investment is consistent with the applicable provisions of ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code;

whether, under the facts and circumstances appertaining to the Benefit Plan in question, the fiduciary's responsibility to the plan has been satisfied;

whether the investment will produce UBTI to the Benefit Plan (see Federal Income Tax Considerations Treatment of Tax-Exempt Stockholders); and

the need to value the assets of the Benefit Plan annually.

Under ERISA, a plan fiduciary's responsibilities include the following duties:

to act solely in the interest of plan participants and beneficiaries and for the exclusive purpose of providing benefits to them, as well as defraying reasonable expenses of plan administration;

to invest plan assets prudently;

to diversify the investments of the plan unless it is clearly prudent not to do so;

to ensure sufficient liquidity for the plan; and

to consider whether an investment would constitute or give rise to a prohibited transaction under ERISA or the Internal Revenue Code.

ERISA also requires that the assets of an employee benefit plan be held in trust and that the trustee, or a duly authorized named fiduciary or investment manager, have exclusive authority and discretion to manage and control the assets of the plan.

Prohibited Transactions

Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Internal Revenue Code prohibit specified transactions involving the assets of a Benefit Plan which are between the plan and any party in interest or disqualified person with respect to that Benefit Plan. These transactions are prohibited regardless of how beneficial they may be for the Benefit Plan. Prohibited transactions include the sale, exchange or leasing of property, and the lending of money or the extension of credit, between a Benefit Plan and a party in interest or disqualified person. The transfer to, or use by or for the benefit of, a party in interest, or disqualified person of any assets of a Benefit Plan is also prohibited. A fiduciary of a Benefit Plan also is prohibited from engaging in self-dealing, acting for a person who has an interest adverse to the plan or receiving any consideration for its own account from a party dealing with the plan in a transaction involving plan assets. Furthermore, Section 408 of the Internal Revenue Code states

that assets of an IRA trust may not be commingled with other property except in a common trust fund or common investment fund.

Table of Contents

Plan Asset Considerations

In order to determine whether an investment in our shares by Benefit Plans creates or gives rise to the potential for either prohibited transactions or a commingling of assets as referred to above, a fiduciary must consider whether an investment in our shares will cause our assets to be treated as assets of the investing Benefit Plans. Neither ERISA nor the Internal Revenue Code define the term plan assets, however, U.S. Department of Labor Regulations provide guidelines as to whether, and under what circumstances, the underlying assets of an entity will be deemed to constitute assets of a Benefit Plan when the plan invests in that entity (Plan Assets Regulation). Under the Plan Assets Regulation, the assets of corporations, partnerships or other entities in which a Benefit Plan makes an equity investment will generally be deemed to be assets of the Benefit Plan unless the entity satisfies one of the exceptions to this general rule. As discussed below, we have received an opinion of counsel that, based on the Plan Assets Regulation, our underlying assets should not be deemed to be plan assets of Benefit Plans investing in shares, assuming the conditions set forth in the opinion are satisfied, based upon the fact that at least one of the specific exemptions set forth in the Plan Assets Regulation is satisfied, as determined under the criteria set forth below.

Specifically, the Plan Assets Regulation provides that the underlying assets of REITs will not be treated as assets of a Benefit Plan investing therein if the interest the Benefit Plan acquires is a publicly-offered security. A publicly-offered security must be:

sold as part of a public offering registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and be part of a class of securities registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, within a specified time period;

part of a class of securities that is owned by 100 or more persons who are independent of the issuer and one another; and

freely transferable.

Our shares are being sold as part of an offering of securities to the public pursuant to an effective registration statement under the Securities Act, and are part of a class registered under the Securities Exchange Act. In addition, we have well in excess of 100 independent stockholders. Thus, both the first and second criterion of the publicly-offered security exception will be satisfied.

Whether a security is freely transferable depends upon the particular facts and circumstances. For example, our shares are subject to certain restrictions on transferability intended to ensure that we continue to qualify for federal income tax treatment as a REIT. The regulation provides, however, that where the minimum investment in a public offering of securities is \$10,000 or less, the presence of a restriction on transferability intended to prohibit transfers which would result in a termination or reclassification of the entity for state or federal tax purposes will not ordinarily affect a determination that such securities are freely transferable. The minimum investment in our shares is less than \$10,000; thus, the restrictions imposed in order to maintain our status as a REIT should not cause the shares to be deemed not freely transferable.

In the event that our underlying assets were treated by the Department of Labor as the assets of investing Benefit Plans, our management would be treated as fiduciaries with respect to each Benefit Plan stockholder, and an investment in our shares might constitute an ineffective delegation of fiduciary responsibility to Wells Capital, our advisor, and expose the fiduciary of the Benefit Plan to co-fiduciary liability under ERISA for any breach by Wells Capital of the fiduciary duties mandated under ERISA.

Table of Contents

Further, if our assets are deemed to be plan assets, an investment by an IRA in our shares might be deemed to result in an impermissible commingling of IRA assets with other property.

If Wells Capital, our advisor, or its affiliates were treated as fiduciaries with respect to Benefit Plan stockholders, the prohibited transaction restrictions of ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code would apply to any transaction involving our assets. These restrictions could, for example, require that we avoid transactions with entities that are affiliated with us or our affiliates or restructure our activities in order to obtain an administrative exemption from the prohibited transaction restrictions. Alternatively, we might have to provide Benefit Plan stockholders with the opportunity to sell their shares to us or we might dissolve or terminate.

If a prohibited transaction were to occur, the Internal Revenue Code imposes an excise tax equal to 15% of the amount involved and authorizes the IRS to impose an additional 100% excise tax if the prohibited transaction is not corrected in a timely manner. These taxes would be imposed on any disqualified person who participates in the prohibited transaction. In addition, Wells Capital and possibly other fiduciaries of Benefit Plan stockholders subject to ERISA who permitted the prohibited transaction to occur or who otherwise breached their fiduciary responsibilities, or a non-fiduciary participating in a prohibited transaction, could be required to restore to the Benefit Plan any profits they realized as a result of the transaction or breach, and make good to the Benefit Plan any losses incurred by the Benefit Plan as a result of the transaction or breach. With respect to an IRA that invests in our shares, the occurrence of a prohibited transaction involving the individual who established the IRA, or his or her beneficiary, would cause the IRA to lose its tax-exempt status under Section 408(e)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We have obtained an opinion from Holland & Knight that it is more likely than not that our shares will be deemed to constitute publicly-offered securities and, accordingly, that it is more likely than not that our underlying assets should not be considered plan assets under the Plan Assets Regulation, assuming the offering takes place as described in this prospectus. If our underlying assets were not deemed to be plan assets, the problems discussed in the immediately preceding three paragraphs are not expected to arise.

Other Prohibited Transactions

Regardless of whether the shares qualify for the publicly-offered security exception of the Plan Assets Regulation, a prohibited transaction could occur if the Wells REIT, Wells Capital, any selected dealer or any of their affiliates is a fiduciary (within the meaning of Section 3(21) of ERISA) with respect to any Benefit Plan purchasing the shares. Accordingly, unless an administrative or statutory exemption applies, shares should not be purchased by a Benefit Plan with respect to which any of the above persons is a fiduciary. A person is a fiduciary with respect to a Benefit Plan under Section 3(21) of ERISA if, among other things, the person has discretionary authority or control with respect to plan assets or provides investment advice for a fee with respect to plan assets. Under a regulation issued by the Department of Labor, a person shall be deemed to be providing investment advice if that person renders advice as to the advisability of investing in our shares and that person regularly provides investment advice to the Benefit Plan pursuant to a mutual agreement or understanding (written or otherwise) (1) that the advice will serve as the primary basis for investment decisions, and (2) that the advice will be individualized for the Benefit Plan based on its particular needs.

Table of Contents

Annual Valuation

A fiduciary of an employee benefit plan subject to ERISA is required to determine annually the fair market value of each asset of the plan as of the end of the plan's fiscal year and to file a report reflecting that value with the Department of Labor. When the fair market value of any particular asset is not available, the fiduciary is required to make a good faith determination of that asset's fair market value assuming an orderly liquidation at the time the determination is made. In addition, a trustee or custodian of an IRA must provide an IRA participant with a statement of the value of the IRA each year. In discharging its obligation to value assets of a plan, a fiduciary subject to ERISA must act consistently with the relevant provisions of the plan and the general fiduciary standards of ERISA.

Unless and until our shares are listed on a national securities exchange or are included for quotation on NASDAQ, it is not expected that a public market for the shares will develop. To date, neither the Internal Revenue Service nor the Department of Labor has promulgated regulations specifying how a plan fiduciary should determine the fair market value of the shares, namely when the fair market value of the shares is not determined in the marketplace. Therefore, to assist fiduciaries in fulfilling their valuation and annual reporting responsibilities with respect to ownership of shares, we intend to have our advisor prepare annual reports of the estimated value of our shares. The methodology to be utilized for determining such estimated share values will be for our advisor to estimate the amount a stockholder would receive if our properties were sold at their estimated fair market values at the end of the fiscal year and the proceeds therefrom (without reduction for selling expenses) were distributed to the stockholders in liquidation. Due to the expense involved in obtaining annual appraisals for all of our properties, we do not currently anticipate that actual appraisals will be obtained; however, in connection with the advisor's estimated valuations, the advisor will obtain a third party opinion that its estimates of value are reasonable. We will provide our reports to plan fiduciaries and IRA trustees and custodians who identify themselves to us and request this information.

Until December 31, 2002, we intend to use the offering price of shares as the per share net asset value. Beginning at the end of year 2003, we will have our advisor prepare estimated valuations utilizing the methodology described above. You should be cautioned, however, that such valuations will be estimates only and will be based upon a number of assumptions that may not be accurate or complete. As set forth above, we do not currently anticipate obtaining appraisals for our properties and, accordingly, the advisor's estimates should not be viewed as an accurate reflection of the fair market value of our properties, nor will they represent the amount of net proceeds that would result from an immediate sale of our properties. In addition, property values are subject to change and can always decline in the future. For these reasons, our estimated valuations should not be utilized for any purpose other than to assist plan fiduciaries in fulfilling their valuation and annual reporting responsibilities. Further, we cannot assure you:

that the estimated values we obtain could or will actually be realized by us or by our stockholders upon liquidation (in part because estimated values do not necessarily indicate the price at which assets could be sold and because no attempt will be made to estimate the expenses of selling any of our assets);

that our stockholders could realize these values if they were to attempt to sell their shares; or

that the estimated values, or the method used to establish values, would comply with the ERISA or IRA requirements described above.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF SHARES

The following description of the shares is not complete but is a summary of portions of our articles of incorporation and is qualified in its entirety by reference to our articles of incorporation.

Under our articles of incorporation, we have authority to issue a total of 1,000,000,000 shares of capital stock. Of the total shares authorized, 750,000,000 shares are designated as common stock with a par value of \$0.01 per share, 100,000,000 shares are designated as preferred stock and 150,000,000 shares are designated as shares-in-trust, which would be issued only in the event we have purchases in excess of the ownership limits described below. In addition, our board of directors may amend our articles of incorporation to increase or decrease the amount of our authorized shares.

As of June 30, 2002, approximately 144,366,772 shares of our common stock were issued and outstanding, and no shares of preferred stock or shares-in-trust were issued and outstanding.

Common Stock

The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters voted on by stockholders, including election of our directors. Our articles of incorporation do not provide for cumulative voting in the election of our directors. Therefore, the holders of a majority of the outstanding common shares can elect our entire board of directors. Subject to any preferential rights of any outstanding series of preferred stock, the holders of common stock are entitled to such dividends as may be declared from time to time by our board of directors out of legally available funds and, upon liquidation, are entitled to receive all assets available for distribution to our stockholders. All shares issued in the offering will be fully paid and non-assessable shares of common stock. Holders of shares of common stock will not have preemptive rights, which means that you will not have an automatic option to purchase any new shares that we issue.

We will not issue certificates for our shares. Shares will be held in uncertificated form which will eliminate the physical handling and safekeeping responsibilities inherent in owning transferable stock certificates and eliminate the need to return a duly executed stock certificate to effect a transfer. Wells Capital, our advisor, acts as our registrar and as the transfer agent for our shares. Transfers can be effected simply by mailing to Wells Capital a transfer and assignment form, which we will provide to you at no charge.

Preferred Stock

Our articles of incorporation authorize our board of directors to designate and issue one or more classes or series of preferred stock without stockholder approval. Our board of directors may determine the relative rights, preferences and privileges of each class or series of preferred stock so issued, which may be more beneficial than the rights, preferences and privileges attributable to the common stock. The issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control of the Wells REIT. Our board of directors has no present plans to issue preferred stock, but may do so at any time in the future without stockholder approval.

Meetings and Special Voting Requirements

An annual meeting of the stockholders will be held each year, at least 30 days after delivery of our annual report. Special meetings of stockholders may be called only upon the request of a majority of our directors, a majority of the independent directors, the chairman, the president or upon the written request of stockholders holding at least 10% of the shares. The presence of a majority of the outstanding

Table of Contents

shares either in person or by proxy shall constitute a quorum. Generally, the affirmative vote of a majority of all votes entitled to be cast is necessary to take stockholder action authorized by our articles of incorporation, except that a majority of the votes represented in person or by proxy at a meeting at which a quorum is present is sufficient to elect a director.

Under Maryland Corporation Law and our articles of incorporation, stockholders are entitled to vote at a duly held meeting at which a quorum is present on (1) amendments to our articles of incorporation, (2) a liquidation or dissolution of the Wells REIT, (3) a reorganization of the Wells REIT, (4) a merger, consolidation or sale or other disposition of substantially all of our assets, and (5) a termination of our status as a REIT. The vote of stockholders holding a majority of our outstanding shares is required to approve any such action, and no such action can be taken by our board of directors without such majority vote of our stockholders. Accordingly, any provision in our articles of incorporation, including our investment objectives, can be amended by the vote of stockholders holding a majority of our outstanding shares. Stockholders voting against any merger or sale of assets are permitted under Maryland Corporation Law to petition a court for the appraisal and payment of the fair value of their shares. In an appraisal proceeding, the court appoints appraisers who attempt to determine the fair value of the stock as of the date of the stockholder vote on the merger or sale of assets. After considering the appraisers' report, the court makes the final determination of the fair value to be paid to the dissenting stockholder and decides whether to award interest from the date of the merger or sale of assets and costs of the proceeding to the dissenting stockholders.

Wells Capital, as our advisor, is selected and approved annually by our directors. While the stockholders do not have the ability to vote to replace Wells Capital or to select a new advisor, stockholders do have the ability, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares entitled to vote on such matter, to elect to remove a director from our board.

Stockholders are entitled to receive a copy of our stockholder list upon request. The list provided by us will include each stockholder's name, address and telephone number, if available, and number of shares owned by each stockholder and will be sent within 10 days of the receipt by us of the request. A stockholder requesting a list will be required to pay reasonable costs of postage and duplication. We have the right to request that a requesting stockholder represent to us that the list will not be used to pursue commercial interests.

In addition to the foregoing, stockholders have rights under Rule 14a-7 under the Securities Exchange Act, which provides that, upon the request of investors and the payment of the expenses of the distribution, we are required to distribute specific materials to stockholders in the context of the solicitation of proxies for voting on matters presented to stockholders or, at our option, provide requesting stockholders with a copy of the list of stockholders so that the requesting stockholders may make the distribution of proxies themselves.

Restriction on Ownership of Shares

In order for us to qualify as a REIT, not more than 50% of our outstanding shares may be owned by any five or fewer individuals, including some tax-exempt entities. In addition, the outstanding shares must be owned by 100 or more persons independent of us and each other during at least 335 days of a 12-month taxable year or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. We may prohibit certain acquisitions and transfers of shares so as to ensure our continued qualification as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. However, we cannot assure you that this prohibition will be effective.

In order to assist us in preserving our status as a REIT, our articles of incorporation contain a limitation on ownership that prohibits any person or group of persons from acquiring, directly or

Table of Contents

indirectly, beneficial ownership of more than 9.8% of our outstanding shares. Our articles of incorporation provide that any transfer of shares that would violate our share ownership limitations is null and void and the intended transferee will acquire no rights in such shares, unless the transfer is approved by our board of directors based upon receipt of information that such transfer would not violate the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code for qualification as a REIT.

Shares in excess of the ownership limit which are attempted to be transferred will be designated as shares-in-trust and will be transferred automatically to a trust effective on the day before the reported transfer of such shares. The record holder of the shares that are designated as shares-in-trust will be required to submit such number of shares to the Wells REIT in the name of the trustee of the trust. We will designate a trustee of the share trust that will not be affiliated with us. We will also name one or more charitable organizations as a beneficiary of the share trust. Shares-in-trust will remain issued and outstanding shares and will be entitled to the same rights and privileges as all other shares of the same class or series. The trustee will receive all dividends and distributions on the shares-in-trust and will hold such dividends or distributions in trust for the benefit of the beneficiary. The trustee will vote all shares-in-trust during the period they are held in trust.

At our direction, the trustee will transfer the shares-in-trust to a person whose ownership will not violate the ownership limits. The transfer shall be made within 20 days of our receipt of notice that shares have been transferred to the trust. During this 20-day period, we will have the option of redeeming such shares. Upon any such transfer or redemption, the purported transferee or holder shall receive a per share price equal to the lesser of (1) the price per share in the transaction that created such shares-in-trust, or (2) the market price per share on the date of the transfer or redemption.

Any person who (1) acquires shares in violation of the foregoing restriction or who owns shares that were transferred to any such trust is required to give immediate written notice to the Wells REIT of such event, or (2) transfers or receives shares subject to such limitations is required to give the Wells REIT 15 days written notice prior to such transaction. In both cases, such persons shall provide to the Wells REIT such other information as we may request in order to determine the effect, if any, of such transfer on our status as a REIT.

The foregoing restrictions will continue to apply until (1) our board of directors determines it is no longer in our best interest to continue to qualify as a REIT, and (2) there is an affirmative vote of the majority of shares entitled to vote on such matter at a regular or special meeting of our stockholders.

The ownership limit does not apply to an offeror which, in accordance with applicable federal and state securities laws, makes a cash tender offer, where at least 85% of the outstanding shares are duly tendered and accepted pursuant to the cash tender offer. The ownership limit also does not apply to the underwriter in a public offering of shares or to a person or persons so exempted from the ownership limit by our board of directors based upon appropriate assurances that our qualification as a REIT is not jeopardized.

Any person who owns 5% or more of the outstanding shares during any taxable year will be asked to deliver a statement or affidavit setting forth the number of shares beneficially owned, directly or indirectly.

Dividends

Dividends will be paid on a quarterly basis regardless of the frequency with which such dividends are declared. Dividends will be paid to investors who are stockholders as of the record dates selected by our board of directors. We currently calculate our quarterly dividends based

upon daily record and

Table of Contents

dividend declaration dates so our investors will be entitled to be paid dividends immediately upon their purchase of shares. We then make quarterly dividend payments following the end of each calendar quarter.

We are required to make distributions sufficient to satisfy the requirements for qualification as a REIT for tax purposes. Generally, income distributed as dividends will not be taxable to us under the Internal Revenue Code if we distribute at least 90% of our taxable income. (See Federal Income Tax Considerations Requirements for Qualification as a REIT.)

Dividends will be declared at the discretion of our board of directors, in accordance with our earnings, cash flow and general financial condition. Our board's discretion will be directed, in substantial part, by its obligation to cause us to comply with the REIT requirements. Because we may receive income from interest or rents at various times during our fiscal year, dividends may not reflect our income earned in that particular distribution period but may be made in anticipation of cash flow which we expect to receive during a later quarter and may be made in advance of actual receipt of funds in an attempt to make dividends relatively uniform. We may borrow money, issue securities or sell assets in order to make dividend distributions.

We are not prohibited from distributing our own securities in lieu of making cash dividends to stockholders, provided that the securities so distributed to stockholders are readily marketable. Stockholders who receive marketable securities in lieu of cash dividends may incur transaction expenses in liquidating the securities.

Dividend Reinvestment Plan

We currently have a dividend reinvestment plan available that allows you to have your dividends otherwise distributable to you invested in additional shares of the Wells REIT.

You may purchase shares under our dividend reinvestment plan for \$10 per share until all of the shares registered as part of this offering have been sold. After this time, we may purchase shares either through purchases on the open market, if a market then exists, or through an additional issuance of shares. In any case, the price per share will be equal to the then-prevailing market price, which shall equal the price on the securities exchange or over-the-counter market on which such shares are listed at the date of purchase if such shares are then listed. A copy of our Amended and Restated Dividend Reinvestment Plan as currently in effect is included as Exhibit B to this prospectus.

You may elect to participate in the dividend reinvestment plan by completing the Subscription Agreement, the enrollment form or by other written notice to the plan administrator. Participation in the plan will begin with the next distribution made after receipt of your written notice. We may terminate the dividend reinvestment plan for any reason at any time upon 10 days' prior written notice to participants. Your participation in the plan will also be terminated to the extent that a reinvestment of your dividends in our shares would cause the percentage ownership limitation contained in our articles of incorporation to be exceeded. In addition, you may terminate your participation in the dividend reinvestment plan at any time by providing us with written notice.

If you elect to participate in the dividend reinvestment plan and are subject to federal income taxation, you will incur a tax liability for dividends allocated to you even though you have elected not to receive the dividends in cash but rather to have the dividends withheld and reinvested pursuant to the dividend reinvestment plan. Specifically, you will be treated as if you have received the dividend from us in cash and then applied such dividend to the purchase of additional shares. You will be taxed on the

Table of Contents

amount of such dividend as ordinary income to the extent such dividend is from current or accumulated earnings and profits, unless we have designated all or a portion of the dividend as a capital gain dividend.

Share Redemption Program

Prior to the time that our shares are listed on a national securities exchange, stockholders of the Wells REIT who have held their shares for at least one year may receive the benefit of limited interim liquidity by presenting for redemption all or any portion of their shares to us at any time in accordance with the procedures outlined herein. At that time, we may, subject to the conditions and limitations described below, redeem the shares presented for redemption for cash to the extent that we have sufficient funds available to us to fund such redemption.

If you have held your shares for the required one-year period, you may redeem your shares for a purchase price equal to the lesser of (1) \$10 per share, or (2) the purchase price per share that you actually paid for your shares of the Wells REIT. In the event that you are redeeming all of your shares, shares purchased pursuant to our dividend reinvestment plan may be excluded from the foregoing one-year holding period requirement, in the discretion of our board of directors. In addition, for purposes of the one-year holding period, limited partners of Wells OP who exchange their limited partnership units for shares in the Wells REIT shall be deemed to have owned their shares as of the date they were issued their limited partnership units in Wells OP. Our board of directors reserves the right in its sole discretion at any time and from time to time to (1) change the purchase price for redemptions, or (2) otherwise amend the terms of our share redemption program. In addition, our board of directors has delegated to our officers the right to (1) waive the one-year holding period in the event of the death or bankruptcy of a stockholder or other exigent circumstances, or (2) reject any request for redemption at any time and for any reason.

Redemption of shares, when requested, will be made quarterly on a first-come, first-served basis. Subject to funds being available, we will limit the number of shares redeemed pursuant to our share redemption program as follows: (1) during any calendar year, we will not redeem in excess of 3.0% of the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the prior calendar year; and (2) funding for the redemption of shares will come exclusively from the proceeds we receive from the sale of shares under our dividend reinvestment plan such that in no event shall the aggregate amount of redemptions under our share redemption program exceed aggregate proceeds received from the sale of shares pursuant to our dividend reinvestment plan. The board of directors, in its sole discretion, may choose to terminate the share redemption program or to reduce the number of shares purchased under the share redemption program if it determines the funds otherwise available to fund our share redemption program are needed for other purposes. (See Risk Factors Investment Risks.)

We cannot guarantee that the funds set aside for our share redemption program will be sufficient to accommodate all requests made in any year. If we do not have such funds available, at the time when redemption is requested, you can (1) withdraw your request for redemption, or (2) ask that we honor your request at such time, if any, when sufficient funds become available. Such pending requests will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis.

Our share redemption program is only intended to provide interim liquidity for stockholders until a secondary market develops for the shares. No such market presently exists, and we cannot assure you that any market for your shares will ever develop.

The shares we redeem under our share redemption program will be cancelled, and will be held as treasury stock. We will not resell such shares to the public unless they are first registered with the

Table of Contents

Securities and Exchange Commission (Commission) under the Securities Act of 1933 and under appropriate state securities laws or otherwise sold in compliance with such laws.

Restrictions on Roll-Up Transactions

In connection with any proposed transaction considered a Roll-up Transaction involving the Wells REIT and the issuance of securities of an entity (a Roll-up Entity) that would be created or would survive after the successful completion of the Roll-up Transaction, an appraisal of all properties shall be obtained from a competent independent appraiser. The properties shall be appraised on a consistent basis, and the appraisal shall be based on the evaluation of all relevant information and shall indicate the value of the properties as of a date immediately prior to the announcement of the proposed Roll-up Transaction. The appraisal shall assume an orderly liquidation of properties over a 12-month period. The terms of the engagement of the independent appraiser shall clearly state that the engagement is for our benefit and the stockholders. A summary of the appraisal, indicating all material assumptions underlying the appraisal, shall be included in a report to stockholders in connection with any proposed Roll-up Transaction.

A Roll-up Transaction is a transaction involving the acquisition, merger, conversion or consolidation, directly or indirectly, of the Wells REIT and the issuance of securities of a Roll-up Entity. This term does not include:

a transaction involving our securities that have been for at least 12 months listed on a national securities exchange or included for quotation on NASDAQ; or

a transaction involving the conversion to corporate, trust, or association form of only the Wells REIT if, as a consequence of the transaction, there will be no significant adverse change in any of the following: stockholder voting rights; the term of our existence; compensation to Wells Capital; or our investment objectives.

In connection with a proposed Roll-up Transaction, the person sponsoring the Roll-up Transaction must offer to stockholders who vote no on the proposal the choice of:

(1) accepting the securities of a Roll-up Entity offered in the proposed Roll-up Transaction; or

(2) one of the following:

(A) remaining as stockholders of the Wells REIT and preserving their interests therein on the same terms and conditions as existed previously, or

(B) receiving cash in an amount equal to the stockholder's pro rata share of the appraised value of our net assets.

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

We are prohibited from participating in any proposed Roll-up Transaction:

that would result in the stockholders having democracy rights in a Roll-up Entity that are less than those provided in our bylaws and described elsewhere in this prospectus, including rights with respect to the election and removal of directors, annual reports, annual and special meetings, amendment of our articles of incorporation, and dissolution of the Wells REIT;

that includes provisions that would operate to materially impede or frustrate the accumulation of shares by any purchaser of the securities of the Roll-up Entity, except to the minimum extent necessary to preserve the tax status of the Roll-up Entity, or which

Table of Contents

would limit the ability of an investor to exercise the voting rights of its securities of the Roll-up Entity on the basis of the number of shares held by that investor;

in which investor's rights to access of records of the Roll-up Entity will be less than those provided in the section of this prospectus entitled "Description of Shares Meetings and Special Voting Requirements;" or

in which any of the costs of the Roll-up Transaction would be borne by us if the Roll-up Transaction is not approved by the stockholders.

Business Combinations

Maryland Corporation Law prohibits certain business combinations between a Maryland corporation and an interested stockholder or the interested stockholder's affiliate for five years after the most recent date on which the stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. These provisions of the Maryland Corporation Law will not apply, however, to business combinations that are approved or exempted by the board of directors of the corporation prior to the time that the interested stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. As permitted by Maryland Corporation Law, we have provided in our articles of incorporation that the business combination provisions of Maryland Corporation Law will not apply to transactions involving the Wells REIT.

Control Share Acquisitions

Maryland Corporation Law provides that control shares of a Maryland corporation acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights except to the extent approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Shares owned by the acquiror, or by officers or directors who are employees of the corporation are not entitled to vote on the matter. As permitted by Maryland Corporation Law, we have provided in our articles of incorporation that the control share provisions of Maryland Corporation Law will not apply to transactions involving the Wells REIT.

THE OPERATING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

General

Wells Operating Partnership, L.P. (Wells OP) was formed in January 1998 to acquire, own and operate properties on our behalf. It is considered to be an Umbrella Partnership Real Estate Investment Trust (UPREIT), which is a structure generally utilized to provide for the acquisition of real property from owners who desire to defer taxable gain otherwise required to be recognized by them upon the disposition of their properties. Such owners may also desire to achieve diversity in their investment and other benefits afforded to stockholders in a REIT. For purposes of satisfying the Asset and Income Tests for qualification as a REIT for tax purposes, the REIT's proportionate share of the assets and income of an UPREIT, such as Wells OP, will be deemed to be assets and income of the REIT.

The property owner's goals are accomplished because a property owner may contribute property to an UPREIT in exchange for limited partnership units on a tax-deferred basis. Further, Wells OP is structured to make distributions with respect to limited partnership units which

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

will be equivalent to the dividend distributions made to stockholders of the Wells REIT. Finally, a limited partner in Wells OP may later exchange his limited partnership units in Wells OP for shares of the Wells REIT (in a taxable transaction) and, if our shares are then listed, achieve liquidity for his investment.

Table of Contents

Substantially all of our assets are held by Wells OP, and we intend to make future acquisitions of real properties using the UPREIT structure. The Wells REIT is the sole general partner of Wells OP and, as of June 30, 2002, owned an approximately 99.72% equity percentage interest in Wells OP. Wells Capital, our advisor, contributed \$200,000 to Wells OP and is currently the only limited partner owning the other approximately 0.28% equity percentage interest in Wells OP. As the sole general partner of Wells OP, we have the exclusive power to manage and conduct the business of Wells OP.

The following is a summary of certain provisions of the partnership agreement of Wells OP. This summary is not complete and is qualified by the specific language in the partnership agreement. You should refer to the partnership agreement, itself, which we have filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, for more detail.

Capital Contributions

As we accept subscriptions for shares, we will transfer substantially all of the net proceeds of the offering to Wells OP as a capital contribution; however, we will be deemed to have made capital contributions in the amount of the gross offering proceeds received from investors. Wells OP will be deemed to have simultaneously paid the selling commissions and other costs associated with the offering. If Wells OP requires additional funds at any time in excess of capital contributions made by us and Wells Capital or from borrowing, we may borrow funds from a financial institution or other lender and lend such funds to Wells OP on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to our borrowing of such funds. In addition, we are authorized to cause Wells OP to issue partnership interests for less than fair market value if we conclude in good faith that such issuance is in the best interest of Wells OP and the Wells REIT.

Operations

The partnership agreement of Wells OP provides that Wells OP is to be operated in a manner that will (1) enable the Wells REIT to satisfy the requirements for being classified as a REIT for tax purposes, (2) avoid any federal income or excise tax liability, and (3) ensure that Wells OP will not be classified as a publicly traded partnership for purposes of Section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code, which classification could result in Wells OP being taxed as a corporation, rather than as a partnership. (See Federal Income Tax Considerations Tax Aspects of Our Operating Partnership Classification as a Partnership.)

The partnership agreement provides that Wells OP will distribute cash flow from operations to the limited partners of Wells OP in accordance with their relative percentage interests on at least a quarterly basis in amounts determined by the Wells REIT as general partner such that a holder of one unit of limited partnership interest in Wells OP will receive the same amount of annual cash flow distributions from Wells OP as the amount of annual dividends paid to the holder of one of our shares. Remaining cash from operations will be distributed to the Wells REIT as the general partner to enable us to make dividend distributions to our stockholders.

Similarly, the partnership agreement of Wells OP provides that taxable income is allocated to the limited partners of Wells OP in accordance with their relative percentage interests such that a holder of one unit of limited partnership interest in Wells OP will be allocated taxable income for each taxable year in an amount equal to the amount of taxable income to be recognized by a holder of one of our shares, subject to compliance with the provisions of Sections 704(b) and 704(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and corresponding Treasury Regulations. Losses, if any, will generally be allocated among the partners in accordance with their respective percentage interests in Wells OP.

Table of Contents

Upon the liquidation of Wells OP, after payment of debts and obligations, any remaining assets of Wells OP will be distributed to partners with positive capital accounts in accordance with their respective positive capital account balances. If the Wells REIT were to have a negative balance in its capital account following a liquidation, it would be obligated to contribute cash to Wells OP equal to such negative balance for distribution to other partners, if any, having positive balances in their capital accounts.

In addition to the administrative and operating costs and expenses incurred by Wells OP in acquiring and operating real properties, Wells OP will pay all administrative costs and expenses of the Wells REIT and such expenses will be treated as expenses of Wells OP. Such expenses will include:

all expenses relating to the formation and continuity of existence of the Wells REIT;

all expenses relating to the public offering and registration of securities by the Wells REIT;

all expenses associated with the preparation and filing of any periodic reports by the Wells REIT under federal, state or local laws or regulations;

all expenses associated with compliance by the Wells REIT with applicable laws, rules and regulations; and

all other operating or administrative costs of the Wells REIT incurred in the ordinary course of its business on behalf of Wells OP.

Exchange Rights

The limited partners of Wells OP, including Wells Capital, have the right to cause Wells OP to redeem their limited partnership units for cash equal to the value of an equivalent number of our shares, or, at our option, we may purchase their limited partnership units by issuing one share of the Wells REIT for each limited partnership unit redeemed. These exchange rights may not be exercised, however, if and to the extent that the delivery of shares upon such exercise would (1) result in any person owning shares in excess of our ownership limits, (2) result in shares being owned by fewer than 100 persons, (3) result in the Wells REIT being closely held within the meaning of Section 856(h) of the Internal Revenue Code, (4) cause the Wells REIT to own 10% or more of the ownership interests in a tenant within the meaning of Section 856(d)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (5) cause the acquisition of shares by a redeemed limited partner to be integrated with any other distribution of our shares for purposes of complying with the Securities Act of 1933.

Subject to the foregoing, limited partners may exercise their exchange rights at any time after one year following the date of issuance of their limited partnership units; provided, however, that a limited partner may not deliver more than two exchange notices each calendar year and may not exercise an exchange right for less than 1,000 limited partnership units, unless such limited partner holds less than 1,000 units, in which case, he must exercise his exchange right for all of his units.

Transferability of Interests

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

The Wells REIT may not (1) voluntarily withdraw as the general partner of Wells OP, (2) engage in any merger, consolidation or other business combination, or (3) transfer its general partnership interest in Wells OP (except to a wholly-owned subsidiary), unless the transaction in which such withdrawal, business combination or transfer occurs results in the limited partners receiving or having the right to

Table of Contents

receive an amount of cash, securities or other property equal in value to the amount they would have received if they had exercised their exchange rights immediately prior to such transaction or unless, in the case of a merger or other business combination, the successor entity contributes substantially all of its assets to Wells OP in return for an interest in Wells OP and agrees to assume all obligations of the general partner of Wells OP. The Wells REIT may also enter into a business combination or we may transfer our general partnership interest upon the receipt of the consent of a majority-in-interest of the limited partners of Wells OP, other than Wells Capital. With certain exceptions, the limited partners may not transfer their interests in Wells OP, in whole or in part, without the written consent of the Wells REIT as the general partner. In addition, Wells Capital may not transfer its interest in Wells OP as long as it is acting as the advisor to the Wells REIT, except pursuant to the exercise of its right to exchange limited partnership units for Wells REIT shares, in which case similar restrictions on transfer will apply to the REIT shares received by Wells Capital.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

General

We are offering a maximum of 300,000,000 shares to the public through Wells Investment Securities, our Dealer Manager, a registered broker-dealer affiliated with Wells Capital, our advisor. (See **Conflicts of Interest.**) The shares are being offered at a price of \$10.00 per share on a **best efforts** basis, which means generally that the Dealer Manager will be required to use only its best efforts to sell the shares and it has no firm commitment or obligation to purchase any of the shares. We are also offering 30,000,000 shares for sale pursuant to our dividend reinvestment plan at a price of \$10.00 per share. We reserve the right in the future to reallocate additional shares to our dividend reinvestment plan out of our public offering shares. An additional 6,600,000 shares are reserved for issuance upon exercise of soliciting dealer warrants, which are granted to participating broker-dealers based upon the number of shares they sell. Therefore, a total of 336,600,000 shares are being registered in this offering.

The offering of shares will terminate on or before July 25, 2004. However, we reserve the right to terminate this offering at any time prior to such termination date.

Underwriting Compensation and Terms

Except as provided below, the Dealer Manager will receive selling commissions of 7.0% of the gross offering proceeds. The Dealer Manager will also receive 2.5% of the gross offering proceeds in the form of a dealer manager fee as compensation for acting as the Dealer Manager and for expenses incurred in connection with marketing our shares and paying the employment costs of the Dealer Manager's wholesalers. Out of its dealer manager fee, the Dealer Manager may pay salaries and commissions to its wholesalers in the aggregate amount of up to 1.0% of gross offering proceeds. We will not pay referral or similar fees to any accountants, attorneys or other persons in connection with the distribution of the shares. Stockholders who elect to participate in the dividend reinvestment plan will be charged selling commissions and dealer manager fees on shares purchased pursuant to the dividend reinvestment plan on the same basis as stockholders purchasing shares other than pursuant to the dividend reinvestment plan.

The Dealer Manager may authorize certain other broker-dealers who are members of the NASD (Participating Dealers) to sell our shares. In the event of the sale of shares by such Participating Dealers, the Dealer Manager may reallocate its commissions in the amount of up to 7.0% of the gross offering proceeds to such Participating Dealers. In addition, the Dealer Manager may reallocate a portion of its dealer manager fee to Participating Dealers in the aggregate amount of up to 1.5% of gross offering proceeds to be paid to such Participating Dealers as marketing fees, or to reimburse representatives of such Participating Dealers the costs and expenses of attending our educational conferences and seminars.

Table of Contents

In addition, unless otherwise agreed with the Dealer Manager, Participating Dealers will be reimbursed for bona fide due diligence expenses, not to exceed 0.5% of gross offering proceeds in the aggregate.

We will also award to the Dealer Manager one soliciting dealer warrant for every 50 shares sold to the public or issued to stockholders pursuant to our dividend reinvestment plan during the offering period, except for sales of shares made net of commissions, as described below, in which case no warrants will be issued. The Dealer Manager intends to reallocate these warrants to Participating Dealers by awarding one soliciting dealer warrant for every 50 shares sold during the offering period, unless such issuance of soliciting dealer warrants is prohibited by either federal or state securities laws. The holder of a soliciting dealer warrant will be entitled to purchase one share from the Wells REIT at a price of \$12 per share during the period beginning on the first anniversary of the effective date of this offering and ending five years after the effective date of this offering. Participating Dealers are restricted from transferring, assigning, pledging or hypothecating the soliciting dealer warrants (except to certain officers or partners of such Participating Dealers in accordance with applicable NASD Rules) for a period of one year following the effective date of this offering. The shares issuable upon exercise of the soliciting dealer warrants are being registered as part of this offering. For the life of the soliciting dealer warrants, Participating Dealers are given the opportunity to profit from a rise in the market price for the common stock without assuming the risk of ownership, with a resulting dilution in the interest of other stockholders upon exercise of such warrants. In addition, holders of the soliciting dealer warrants would be expected to exercise such warrants at a time when we could obtain needed capital by offering new securities on terms more favorable than those provided by the soliciting dealer warrants. Exercise of the soliciting dealer warrants is governed by the terms and conditions detailed in this prospectus and in the Warrant Purchase Agreement, which is an exhibit to the registration statement.

In no event shall the total aggregate underwriting compensation, including sales commissions, the dealer manager fee and underwriting expense reimbursements, exceed 9.5% of gross offering proceeds in the aggregate, except for the soliciting dealer warrants described above and bona fide due diligence expenses not to exceed 0.5% of gross offering proceeds in the aggregate.

We have agreed to indemnify the Participating Dealers, including the Dealer Manager, against certain liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

The Participating Dealers are not obligated to obtain any subscriptions on our behalf, and we cannot assure you that any shares will be sold.

Our executive officers and directors, as well as officers and employees of Wells Capital or other affiliates, may purchase shares in this offering at a discount. The purchase price for such shares shall be \$8.90 per share reflecting the fact that the acquisition and advisory fees relating to such shares will be reduced by \$0.15 per share (from \$0.30 per share to \$0.15 per share), and that selling commissions in the amount of \$0.70 per share and dealer manager fees in the amount of \$0.25 per share will not be payable in connection with such sales. The net offering proceeds we receive will not be affected by such sales of shares at a discount. Wells Capital and its affiliates shall be expected to hold their shares purchased as stockholders for investment and not with a view towards distribution. In addition, shares purchased by Wells Capital or its affiliates shall not be entitled to vote on any matter presented to the stockholders for a vote.

We may sell shares to retirement plans of Participating Dealers, to Participating Dealers in their individual capacities, to IRAs and qualified plans of their registered representatives or to any one of their registered representatives in their individual capacities for 93% of the public offering price in consideration of the services rendered by such broker-dealers and registered representatives in the offering. The net proceeds to the Wells REIT from such sales made net of commissions will be identical to net proceeds we receive from other sales of shares.

Table of Contents

In connection with sales of certain minimum numbers of shares to a purchaser, as defined below, certain volume discounts resulting in reductions in selling commissions payable with respect to such sales are available to investors. In such event, any such reduction will be credited to the investor by reducing the purchase price per share payable by the investor. The following table illustrates the various discount levels available:

Number of Shares Purchased	Purchase Price per Incremental Share in Volume Discount Range	Commissions on Sales per Incremental Share in Volume Discount Range	
		Percentage (based on \$10 per share)	Amount
1 to 50,000	\$10.00	7.0%	\$0.70
50,001 to 100,000	\$ 9.80	5.0%	\$0.50
100,001 and Over	\$ 9.60	3.0%	\$0.30

For example, if an investor purchases 200,000 shares he would pay (1) \$500,000 for the first 50,000 shares (\$10.00 per share), (2) \$490,000 for the next 50,000 shares (\$9.80 per share), and (3) \$960,000 for the remaining 100,000 shares (\$9.60 per share). Accordingly, he could pay as little as \$1,950,000 (\$9.75 per share) rather than \$2,000,000 for the shares, in which event the commission on the sale of such shares would be \$90,000 (\$0.45 per share) and, after payment of the dealer manager fee of \$50,000 (\$0.25 per share), we would receive net proceeds of \$1,810,000 (\$9.05 per share). The net proceeds to the Wells REIT will not be affected by volume discounts. Requests to apply the volume discount provisions must be made in writing and submitted simultaneously with your subscription for shares.

Because all investors will be paid the same dividends per share as other investors, an investor qualifying for a volume discount will receive a higher percentage return on his investment than investors who do not qualify for such discount.

Subscriptions may be combined for the purpose of determining the volume discounts in the case of subscriptions made by any purchaser, as that term is defined below, provided all such shares are purchased through the same broker-dealer. The volume discount shall be prorated among the separate subscribers considered to be a single purchaser. Any request to combine more than one subscription must be made in writing submitted simultaneously with your subscription for shares, and must set forth the basis for such request. Any such request will be subject to verification by the Dealer Manager that all of such subscriptions were made by a single purchaser.

For the purposes of such volume discounts, the term purchaser includes:

an individual, his or her spouse and their children under the age of 21 who purchase the units for his, her or their own accounts;

a corporation, partnership, association, joint-stock company, trust fund or any organized group of persons, whether incorporated or not;

an employees trust, pension, profit sharing or other employee benefit plan qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

all commingled trust funds maintained by a given bank.

Notwithstanding the above, in connection with volume sales made to investors in the Wells REIT, investors may request in writing to aggregate subscriptions, including subscriptions to public real estate programs previously sponsored by our advisor or its affiliates, as part of a combined order for purposes of determining the number of shares purchased, provided that any aggregate group of subscriptions must be

Table of Contents

received from the same Participating Dealer, including the Dealer Manager. Any such reduction in selling commission will be prorated among the separate subscribers. An investor may reduce the amount of his purchase price to the net amount shown in the foregoing table, if applicable. As set forth above, all requests to aggregate subscriptions as a single purchaser or other application of the foregoing volume discount provisions must be made in writing, and except as provided in this paragraph, separate subscriptions will not be cumulated, combined or aggregated.

California residents should be aware that volume discounts will not be available in connection with the sale of shares made to California residents to the extent such discounts do not comply with the provisions of Rule 260.140.51 adopted pursuant to the California Corporate Securities Law of 1968. Pursuant to this Rule, volume discounts can be made available to California residents only in accordance with the following conditions:

there can be no variance in the net proceeds to the Wells REIT from the sale of the shares to different purchasers of the same offering;

all purchasers of the shares must be informed of the availability of quantity discounts;

the same volume discounts must be allowed to all purchasers of shares which are part of the offering;

the minimum amount of shares as to which volume discounts are allowed cannot be less than \$10,000;

the variance in the price of the shares must result solely from a different range of commissions, and all discounts allowed must be based on a uniform scale of commissions; and

no discounts are allowed to any group of purchasers.

Accordingly, volume discounts for California residents will be available in accordance with the foregoing table of uniform discount levels based on dollar volume of shares purchased, but no discounts are allowed to any group of purchasers, and no subscriptions may be aggregated as part of a combined order for purposes of determining the number of shares purchased.

Investors may agree with their broker-dealer to reduce the amount of selling commissions payable with respect to the sale of their shares down to zero (1) in the event that the investor has engaged the services of a registered investment advisor or other financial advisor with whom the investor has agreed to pay compensation for investment advisory services or other financial or investment advice, or (2) in the event that the investor is investing in a bank trust account with respect to which the investor has delegated the decision-making authority for investments made in the account to a bank trust department. The net proceeds to the Wells REIT will not be affected by reducing the commissions payable in connection with such transactions.

Neither the Dealer Manager nor its affiliates will compensate any person engaged as an investment advisor by a potential investor as an inducement for such investment advisor to advise favorably for an investment in the Wells REIT.

In addition, subscribers for shares may agree with their Participating Dealers and the Dealer Manager to have selling commissions due with respect to the purchase of their shares paid over a six-year period pursuant to a deferred commission arrangement. Stockholders electing the deferred commission option will be required to pay a total of \$9.40 per share purchased upon subscription, rather than \$10.00 per share, with

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

respect to which \$0.10 per share will be payable as commissions due upon subscription. For the period of six years following subscription, \$0.10 per share will be deducted on an annual basis

Table of Contents

from dividends or other cash distributions otherwise payable to the stockholders and used by the Wells REIT to pay deferred commission obligations. The net proceeds to the Wells REIT will not be affected by the election of the deferred commission option. Under this arrangement, a stockholder electing the deferred commission option will pay a 1% commission upon subscription, rather than a 7% commission, and an amount equal to a 1% commission per year thereafter for the next six years, or longer if required to satisfy outstanding deferred commission obligations, will be deducted from dividends or other cash distributions otherwise payable to such stockholder and used by the Wells REIT to satisfy commission obligations. The foregoing commission amounts may be adjusted with approval of the Dealer Manager by application of the volume discount provisions described previously.

Stockholders electing the deferred commission option who are subject to federal income taxation will incur tax liability for dividends or other cash distributions otherwise payable to them with respect to their shares even though such dividends or other cash distributions will be withheld from such stockholders and will instead be paid to third parties to satisfy commission obligations.

Investors who wish to elect the deferred commission option should make the election on their Subscription Agreement Signature Page. Election of the deferred commission option shall authorize the Wells REIT to withhold dividends or other cash distributions otherwise payable to such stockholder for the purpose of paying commissions due under the deferred commission option; provided, however, that in no event may the Wells REIT withhold in excess of \$0.60 per share in the aggregate under the deferred commission option. Such dividends or cash distributions otherwise payable to stockholders may be pledged by the Wells REIT, the Dealer Manager, Wells Capital or their affiliates to secure one or more loans, the proceeds of which would be used to satisfy sales commission obligations.

In the event that, at any time prior to the satisfaction of our remaining deferred commission obligations, listing of the shares occurs or is reasonably anticipated to occur, or we begin a liquidation of our properties, the remaining commissions due under the deferred commission option may be accelerated by the Wells REIT. In either such event, we shall provide notice of any such acceleration to stockholders who have elected the deferred commission option. In the event of listing, the amount of the remaining commissions due shall be deducted and paid by the Wells REIT out of dividends or other cash distributions otherwise payable to such stockholders during the time period prior to listing. To the extent that the distributions during such time period are insufficient to satisfy the remaining commissions due, the obligation of Wells REIT and our stockholders to make any further payments of deferred commissions under the deferred commission option shall terminate, and Participating Dealers will not be entitled to receive any further portion of their deferred commissions following listing of our shares. In the event of a liquidation of our properties, the amount of remaining commissions due shall be deducted and paid by the Wells REIT out of dividends or net sale proceeds otherwise payable to stockholders who are subject to any such acceleration of their deferred commission obligations. In no event may the Wells REIT withhold in excess of \$0.60 per share in the aggregate for the payment of deferred commissions.

Subscription Procedures

You should pay for your shares by check payable to Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. Subscriptions will be effective only upon our acceptance, and we reserve the right to reject any subscription in whole or in part. We may not accept a subscription for shares until at least five business days after the date you receive this prospectus. You will receive a confirmation of your purchase. We will initially deposit the subscription proceeds in an interest-bearing account with Bank of America, N.A., Atlanta, Georgia. Subscribers may not withdraw funds from the account. We will withdraw funds from the account periodically for the acquisition of real estate properties, the payment of fees and expenses or other investments approved by our board of directors. We generally admit stockholders to the Wells REIT on a daily basis.

Table of Contents

Except for purchases pursuant to our dividend reinvestment plan or reinvestment plans of other public real estate programs, all accepted subscriptions will be for whole shares and for not less than 100 shares (\$1,000). (See Suitability Standards.) Except in Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska and Washington, investors who have satisfied the minimum purchase requirement and have purchased units or shares in Wells programs or units or shares in other public real estate programs may purchase less than the minimum number of shares discussed above, provided that such investors purchase a minimum of 2.5 shares (\$25). After investors have satisfied the minimum purchase requirement, minimum additional purchases must be in increments of at least 2.5 shares (\$25), except for purchases made pursuant to our dividend reinvestment plan or reinvestment plans of other public real estate programs.

Investors who desire to establish an IRA for purposes of investing in shares may do so by having Wells Advisors, Inc., a qualified non-bank IRA custodian affiliated with our advisor, act as their IRA custodian. In the event that an IRA is established having Wells Advisors, Inc. as the IRA custodian, the authority of Wells Advisors, Inc. will be limited to holding the shares on behalf of the beneficiary of the IRA and making distributions or reinvestments in shares solely at the discretion of the beneficiary of the IRA. Wells Advisors, Inc. will not have the authority to vote any of the shares held in an IRA except strictly in accordance with the written instructions of the beneficiary of the IRA.

The proceeds of this offering will be used only for the purposes set forth in the Estimated Use of Proceeds section. Subscriptions will be accepted or rejected within 30 days of receipt by the Wells REIT and, if rejected, all funds shall be returned to the rejected subscribers within 10 business days.

The Dealer Manager and each Participating Dealer who sells shares on behalf of the Wells REIT have the responsibility to make every reasonable effort to determine that the purchase of shares is appropriate for the investor and that the requisite suitability standards are met. (See Suitability Standards.) In making this determination, the Participating Dealer will rely on relevant information provided by the investor, including information as to the investor's age, investment objectives, investment experience, income, net worth, financial situation, other investments, and other pertinent information. Each investor should be aware that the Participating Dealer will be responsible for determining suitability.

The Dealer Manager or each Participating Dealer shall maintain records of the information used to determine that an investment in shares is suitable and appropriate for an investor. These records are required to be maintained for a period of at least six years.

SUPPLEMENTAL SALES MATERIAL

In addition to this prospectus, we may utilize certain sales material in connection with the offering of the shares, although only when accompanied by or preceded by the delivery of this prospectus. In certain jurisdictions, some or all of such sales material may not be available. This material may include information relating to this offering, the past performance of Wells Capital, our advisor, and its affiliates, property brochures and articles and publications concerning real estate. In addition, the sales material may contain certain quotes from various publications without obtaining the consent of the author or the publication for use of the quoted material in the sales material.

The offering of shares is made only by means of this prospectus. Although the information contained in such sales material will not conflict with any of the information contained in this prospectus, such material does not purport to be complete, and should not be considered a part of this prospectus or the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, or as incorporated by reference in this prospectus or said registration statement or as forming the basis of the offering of the shares.

Table of Contents

LEGAL OPINIONS

The legality of the shares being offered hereby has been passed upon for the Wells REIT by Holland & Knight LLP (Holland & Knight). The statements under the caption "Federal Income Tax Consequences" as they relate to federal income tax matters have been reviewed by Holland & Knight, and Holland & Knight has opined as to certain income tax matters relating to an investment in shares of the Wells REIT. Holland & Knight has also represented Wells Capital, our advisor, as well as various other affiliates of Wells Capital, in other matters and may continue to do so in the future. (See "Conflicts of Interest.")

EXPERTS

Changes in Principal Accountant

On May 8, 2002, the audit committee of our board of directors recommended to the board of directors the dismissal of Arthur Andersen LLP (Andersen) as our independent public accountants, and our board of directors approved the dismissal of Andersen as our independent public accountants; effective immediately.

Andersen's reports on the consolidated financial statements of the Wells REIT for the years ended December 31, 2001 and December 31, 2000 did not contain an adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion, nor were they qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles.

During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2001 and December 31, 2000, and through the date of Andersen's dismissal, there were no disagreements with Andersen on any matter of accounting principle or practice, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure which, if not resolved to Andersen's satisfaction, would have caused Andersen to make reference to the subject matter in connection with its report on the consolidated financial statements of the Wells REIT for such years and there were no reportable events as set forth in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K.

On June 26, 2002, our board of directors approved the recommendation of the audit committee to engage Ernst & Young LLP (Ernst & Young) to audit the financial statements of the Wells REIT, effective immediately. During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2001 and December 31, 2000, and through the date hereof, the Wells REIT did not consult Ernst & Young with respect to the application of accounting principles to a specified transaction, either completed or proposed, or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on the consolidated financial statements of the Wells REIT, or any other matters or reportable events as set forth in Items 304(a)(2)(i) and (ii) of Regulation S-K.

Audited Financial Statements

The financial statements of the Wells REIT, as of December 31, 2001 and 2000, and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2001, included in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement, have been audited by Andersen, independent public accountants, as indicated in their report with respect thereto, and are included in this prospectus in reliance upon the authority of said firm as

experts in giving said report.

In June 2002, Andersen was tried and convicted of federal obstruction of justice charges. Events arising out of the conviction or other events relating to the financial condition of Andersen may adversely affect the ability of Andersen to satisfy any potential claims that may arise out of Andersen's audits of the financial statements contained in this prospectus. In addition, Andersen has notified us that it will no longer be able to provide us with the necessary consents related to previously audited financial statements

Table of Contents

contained in our prospectus. Our inability to obtain such consents may also adversely affect your ability to pursue potential claims against Andersen. (See Risk Factors.)

Unaudited Financial Statements

The Schedule III Real Estate Investments and Accumulated Depreciation as of December 31, 2001, which is included in this prospectus, has not been audited.

The financial statements of the Wells REIT, as of March 31, 2002, and for the three month periods ended March 31, 2002 and March 31, 2001, which are included in this prospectus, have not been audited.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (Commission), Washington, D.C., a registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with respect to the shares offered pursuant to this prospectus. This prospectus does not contain all the information set forth in the registration statement and the exhibits related thereto filed with the Commission, reference to which is hereby made. Copies of the registration statement and exhibits related thereto, as well as periodic reports and information filed by the Wells REIT, may be obtained upon payment of the fees prescribed by the Commission, or may be examined at the offices of the Commission without charge, at the public reference facility in Washington, D.C. at Judiciary Plaza, Room 1024, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. In addition, the Commission maintains a Web site at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding registrants that file electronically with the Commission.

GLOSSARY

The following are definitions of certain terms used in this prospectus and not otherwise defined in this prospectus:

IRA means an individual retirement account established pursuant to Section 408 or Section 408A of the Internal Revenue Code.

NASAA Guidelines means the Statement of Policy Regarding Real Estate Investment Trusts of the North American Securities Administrators Association, Inc., as revised and adopted on September 29, 1993.

UBTI means unrelated business taxable income, as that term is defined in Sections 511 through 514 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Table of Contents

INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PRIOR PERFORMANCE TABLES

	Page
Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. and Subsidiary	
<i>Audited Financial Statements</i>	
Report of Independent Public Accountants	155
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2001 and 2000	156
Consolidated Statements of Income for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2000 and 1999	157
Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2000 and 1999	158
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2000 and 1999	159
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	160
<i>Unaudited Financial Statements</i>	
Schedule III Real Estate Investments and Accumulated Depreciation as of December 31, 2001	194
Consolidated Balance Sheets as of March 31, 2002 and December 31, 2001	198
Consolidated Statements of Income for the three months ended March 31, 2002 and March 31, 2001	199
Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for the year ended December 31, 2001 and for the three months ended March 31, 2002	200
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the three months ended March 31, 2002 and March 31, 2001	201
Condensed Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements March 31, 2002	202
<u>Prior Performance Tables (Unaudited)</u>	210

Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

To Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of **WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST, INC.** (a Maryland corporation) **AND SUBSIDIARY** as of December 31, 2001 and 2000 and the related consolidated statements of income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2001. These financial statements and the schedule referred to below are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and schedule based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and schedule are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Wells Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. and subsidiary as of December 31, 2001 and 2000 and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2001 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Our audits were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. Schedule III - Real Estate Investments and Accumulated Depreciation as of December 31, 2001 is presented for purposes of complying with the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and is not part of the basic financial statements. This schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, fairly states, in all material respects, the financial data required to be set forth therein in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

Atlanta, Georgia

January 25, 2002

Table of Contents**WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

December 31, 2001 and 2000

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
ASSETS		
REAL ESTATE ASSETS, at cost:		
Land	\$ 86,246,985	\$ 46,237,812
Building, less accumulated depreciation of \$24,814,454 and \$9,469,653 at December 31, 2001 and 2000, respectively	472,383,102	287,862,655
Construction in progress	5,738,573	3,357,720
	<u>564,368,660</u>	<u>337,458,187</u>
Total real estate assets	564,368,660	337,458,187
INVESTMENT IN JOINT VENTURES	77,409,980	44,236,597
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	75,586,168	4,298,301
INVESTMENT IN BONDS	22,000,000	0
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	6,003,179	3,781,034
DEFERRED PROJECT COSTS	2,977,110	550,256
DUE FROM AFFILIATES	1,692,727	309,680
DEFERRED LEASE ACQUISITION COSTS	1,525,199	1,890,332
DEFERRED OFFERING COSTS	0	1,291,376
PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER ASSETS, net	718,389	4,734,583
	<u>752,281,412</u>	<u>398,550,346</u>
Total assets	\$ 752,281,412	\$ 398,550,346
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY		
LIABILITIES:		
Notes payable	\$ 8,124,444	\$ 127,663,187
Obligation under capital lease	22,000,000	0
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	8,727,473	2,166,387
Due to affiliate	2,166,161	1,772,956
Dividends payable	1,059,026	1,025,010
Deferred rental income	661,657	381,194
	<u>42,738,761</u>	<u>133,008,734</u>
Total liabilities	\$ 42,738,761	\$ 133,008,734
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES		
MINORITY INTEREST OF UNIT HOLDER IN OPERATING PARTNERSHIP	200,000	200,000
	<u>837,614</u>	<u>315,097</u>
SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY:		
Common shares, \$.01 par value; 125,000,000 shares authorized, 83,761,469 shares issued and 83,206,429 shares outstanding at December 31, 2001; 125,000,000	837,614	315,097

Edgar Filing: WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST INC - Form POS AM

shares authorized, 31,509,807 shares issued, and 31,368,510 shares outstanding at December 31, 2000		
Additional paid in capital	738,236,525	275,573,339
Cumulative distributions in excess of earnings	(24,181,092)	(9,133,855)
Treasury stock, at cost, 555,040 shares at December 31, 2001 and 141,297 shares at December 31, 2000	(5,550,396)	(1,412,969)
Total shareholders equity	<u>709,342,651</u>	<u>265,341,612</u>
Total liabilities and shareholders equity	<u>\$ 752,281,412</u>	<u>\$ 398,550,346</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated balance sheets.

Table of Contents**WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME**

For the years ended December 31, 2001, 2000, and 1999

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
REVENUES:			
Rental income	\$ 44,204,279	\$ 20,505,000	\$ 4,735,184
Equity in income of joint ventures	3,720,959	2,293,873	1,243,969
Take out fee (Note 9)	137,500	0	0
Interest and other income	1,246,064	574,333	516,242
	<u>49,308,802</u>	<u>23,373,206</u>	<u>6,495,395</u>
EXPENSES:			
Depreciation	15,344,801	7,743,551	1,726,103
Interest expense	3,411,210	3,966,902	442,029
Amortization of deferred financing costs	770,192	232,559	8,921
Operating costs, net of reimbursements	4,128,883	888,091	(74,666)
Management and leasing fees	2,507,188	1,309,974	257,744
General and administrative	973,785	438,953	135,144
Legal and accounting	448,776	240,209	115,471
	<u>27,584,835</u>	<u>14,820,239</u>	<u>2,610,746</u>
NET INCOME	<u>\$ 21,723,967</u>	<u>\$ 8,552,967</u>	<u>\$ 3,884,649</u>
EARNINGS PER SHARE:			
Basic and diluted	<u>\$ 0.43</u>	<u>\$ 0.40</u>	<u>\$ 0.50</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

Table of Contents**WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY**

For the years ended December 31, 2001, 2000, and 1999

	Common Stock		Additional Paid-In Capital	Cumulative Distributions in Excess of Earnings	Retained Earnings	Treasury Stock		Total Shareholders Equity
	Shares	Amount				Shares	Amount	
BALANCE, December 31, 1998	3,154,136	\$ 31,541	\$ 27,567,275	\$ (511,163)	\$ 334,034	0	\$ 0	\$ 27,421,687
Issuance of common stock	10,316,949	103,169	103,066,321	0	0	0	0	103,169,490
Net income	0	0	0	0	3,884,649	0	0	3,884,649
Dividends (\$.70 per share)	0	0	0	(1,346,240)	(4,218,683)	0	0	(5,564,923)
Sales commissions and discounts	0	0	(9,801,197)	0	0	0	0	(9,801,197)
Other offering expenses	0	0	(3,094,111)	0	0	0	0	(3,094,111)
BALANCE, December 31, 1999	13,471,085	134,710	117,738,288	(1,857,403)	0	0	0	116,015,595
Issuance of common stock	18,038,722	180,387	180,206,833	0	0	0	0	180,387,220
Treasury stock purchased	0	0	0	0	0	(141,297)	(1,412,969)	(1,412,969)
Net income	0	0	0	0	8,552,967	0	0	8,552,967
Dividends (\$.73 per share)	0	0	0	(7,276,452)	(8,552,967)	0	0	(15,829,419)
Sales commissions and discounts	0	0	(17,002,554)	0	0	0	0	(17,002,554)
Other offering expenses	0	0	(5,369,228)	0	0	0	0	(5,369,228)
BALANCE, December 31, 2000	31,509,807	315,097	275,573,339	(9,133,855)	0	(141,297)	(1,412,969)	265,341,612
Issuance of common stock	52,251,662	522,517	521,994,103	0	0	0	0	522,516,620
Treasury stock purchased	0	0	0	0	0	(413,743)	(4,137,427)	(4,137,427)
Net income	0	0	0	0	21,723,967	0	0	21,723,967
Dividends (\$.76 per share)	0	0	0	(15,047,237)	(21,723,967)	0	0	(36,771,204)
Sales commissions and discounts	0	0	(49,246,118)	0	0	0	0	(49,246,118)
Other offering expenses	0	0	(10,084,799)	0	0	0	0	(10,084,799)
BALANCE, December 31, 2001	83,761,469	\$ 837,614	\$ 738,236,525	\$ (24,181,092)	\$ 0	(555,040)	\$ (5,550,396)	\$ 709,342,651

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

Table of Contents**WELLS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST, INC. AND SUBSIDIARY****CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****For The Years Ended December 31, 2001, 2000, and 1999**

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Net income	\$ 21,723,967	\$ 8,552,967	\$ 3,884,649
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Equity in income of joint ventures	(3,720,959)	(2,293,873)	(1,243,969)
Depreciation	15,344,801	7,743,551	1,726,103
Amortization of deferred financing costs	770,192	232,559	8,921
Amortization of deferred leasing costs	303,347	350,991	0
Write-off of deferred lease acquisition fees	61,786	0	0
Changes in assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	(2,222,145)	(2,457,724)	(898,704)
Due from affiliates	10,995	(435,600)	0
Prepaid expenses and other assets, net	3,246,002	(6,826,568)	149,501
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	6,561,086	1,941,666	36,894
Deferred rental income	280,463	144,615	236,579
Due to affiliates	(10,193)	367,055	108,301
	<u>20,625,375</u>	<u>(1,233,328)</u>	<u>123,626</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>42,349,342</u>	<u>7,319,639</u>	<u>4,008,275</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Investment in real estate	(227,933,858)	(231,518,138)	(85,514,506)
Investment in joint ventures	(33,690,862)	(15,063,625)	(17,641,211)
Deferred project costs paid	(17,220,446)	(6,264,098)	(3,610,967)
Distributions received from joint ventures	4,239,431	3,529,401	1,371,728
	<u>(274,605,735)</u>	<u>(249,316,460)</u>	<u>(105,394,956)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(274,605,735)</u>	<u>(249,316,460)</u>	<u>(105,394,956)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Proceeds from notes payable	110,243,145	187,633,130	40,594,463
Repayments of notes payable	(229,781,888)	(83,899,171)	(30,725,165)
Dividends paid to shareholders	(36,737,188)	(16,971,110)	(3,806,398)
Issuance of common stock	522,516,620	180,387,220	103,169,490
Treasury stock purchased	(4,137,427)	(1,412,969)	0
Sales commissions paid	(49,246,118)	(17,002,554)	(9,801,197)
Offering costs paid	(9,312,884)	(5,369,228)	(3,094,111)
	<u>303,544,260</u>	<u>243,365,318</u>	<u>96,337,082</u>
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>303,544,260</u>	<u>243,365,318</u>	<u>96,337,082</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	71,287,867	1,368,497	(5,049,599)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year	4,298,301	2,929,804	7,979,403

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year	\$ 75,586,168	\$ 4,298,301	\$ 2,929,804
---	----------------------	---------------------	---------------------