

American Homes 4 Rent
Form S-3ASR
August 07, 2014

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 7, 2014

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

AMERICAN HOMES 4 RENT

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Maryland
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

46-1229660
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

30601 Agoura Road, Suite 200
Agoura Hills, California 91031
(805) 413-5300
(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Sara H. Vogt-Lowell
Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer
American Homes 4 Rent
30601 Agoura Road, Suite 200
Agoura Hills, California 91301
(805) 413-5300
(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent For Service)

Copy to:
James E. Showen
Hogan Lovells US LLP
555 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 637-5600

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

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

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

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

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

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

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

Large accelerated
filer

Accelerated
filer

Non-accelerated
filer

Smaller reporting
company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered(1)	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee(1)(2)
Common shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.01 per share(3)				
Preferred shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.01 per share(3)				
Depository Shares, representing preferred shares of beneficial interest(3)				
Warrants(3)(4)				
Rights(3)				
Total				

(1) The securities covered by this registration statement may be sold or otherwise distributed separately, together or as units with other securities covered by this registration statement. This registration statement covers offers, sales and other distributions of the securities listed in this table from time to time at prices to be determined. This registration statement also covers common shares, preferred shares, depository shares, warrants and rights that may be offered or sold under delayed delivery contracts pursuant to which the counterparty may be required to purchase such securities, as well as such contracts themselves. Such contracts would be issued with the specific securities to which they relate.

(2) In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Company is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.

(3) Including an indeterminate number of shares that may be issued by American Homes 4 Rent with respect to common shares by way of a share distribution, share split or in connection with a share combination, merger, consolidation or otherwise.

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

- (4) The warrants covered by this registration statement may be warrants for common shares, preferred shares or depositary shares.
-

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

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

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

Common shares of beneficial interest;

Preferred shares of beneficial interest;

Depositary shares representing our preferred shares;

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

Rights to purchase common shares of beneficial interest.

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

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

We may offer the securities directly to investors, through agents designated from time to time by them or us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. If any agents, underwriters, or dealers are involved in the sale of any of the securities, their names, and any applicable purchase price, fee, commission or discount arrangement with, between or among them, will be set forth, or will be calculable from the information set forth, in an accompanying prospectus supplement. For more detailed information, see "Plan of Distribution" beginning on page 45. No securities may be sold without delivery of a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of those securities.

Our common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, under the symbol "AMH." On August 6, 2014, the last reported sale price of our common shares on the NYSE was \$17.66 per share. Our principal executive offices are located at 30601 Agoura Road, Suite 200, Agoura Hills, California 91301, and our telephone number is (805) 413-5300.

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

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

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

This prospectus is dated August 7, 2014

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
<u>About This Prospectus</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Our Company</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Risk Factors</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Distributions</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Description of Equity Shares</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Description of Common Shares</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Description of Preferred Shares</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>Description of Rights</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Material Provisions of Maryland Law and of Our Declaration of Trust and Bylaws</u>	<u>34</u>
<u>Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Book-Entry Securities</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	<u>46</u>
<u>Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>Legal Matters</u>	<u>82</u>
<u>Experts</u>	<u>82</u>
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	<u>82</u>
<u>Incorporation of Certain Information by Reference</u>	<u>82</u>

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

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

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

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

Unless the context requires otherwise, references in this prospectus to "we," "our," "us," "our company" and "the Company" refer to American Homes 4 Rent, a Maryland real estate investment trust, together with its consolidated subsidiaries, including American Homes 4 Rent, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership, which we refer to as "our operating partnership."

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Various statements contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this prospectus, including those that express a belief, expectation or intention, as well as those that are not statements of historical fact, are forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements may include projections and estimates concerning the timing and success of specific projects, revenues, income and capital spending. Our forward-looking statements are generally accompanied by words such as "estimate," "project," "predict," "believe," "expect," "intend," "anticipate," "potential," "plan," "goal" or other words that convey the uncertainty of future events or outcomes. We have based these forward-looking statements on our current expectations and assumptions about future events. While our management considers these expectations and assumptions to be reasonable, they are inherently subject to significant business,

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

economic, competitive, regulatory and other risks, contingencies, trends and uncertainties, most of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond our control. These and other important factors, including those discussed under "Risk Factors," in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 and elsewhere in this prospectus, may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. These risks, contingencies and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the following:

We are employing a new and untested business model with no proven track record, which may make our business difficult to evaluate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The large supply of single-family homes becoming available for purchase as a result of the heavy volume of foreclosures, combined with historically low residential mortgage rates, may cause some potential renters to seek to purchase residences rather than lease them and, as a result, cause a decline in the number and quality of potential tenants.

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

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

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

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

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

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

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

Table of Contents

OUR COMPANY

American Homes 4 Rent is an internally managed Maryland real estate investment trust, or REIT, focused on acquiring, renovating, leasing and operating single-family homes as rental properties. We commenced operations in November 2012 to continue the investment activities of American Homes 4 Rent LLC, or AH LLC, which was founded by our chairman, B. Wayne Hughes, in 2011 to take advantage of the dislocation in the single-family home market. Mr. Hughes has over 40 years of experience in the real estate business and a successful track record as co-founder and former chairman and chief executive officer of Public Storage, a REIT listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE. We have an integrated operating platform that consists of approximately 530 personnel dedicated to property management, marketing, leasing, financial and administrative functions. Our acquisition and renovation functions are performed by AH LLC, to whom we will continue to pay an acquisition and renovation fee through December 2014.

As of June 30, 2014, we owned 27,173 single-family properties in 22 states and had an additional 485 properties in escrow that we expect to acquire, subject to customary closing conditions, for an estimated total investment of approximately \$70.5 million. As of June 30, 2014, we owned properties in selected sub-markets of metropolitan statistical areas, or MSAs, in 22 states, and we continually evaluate potential new target markets that fit our underwriting criteria and are located where we believe we can achieve sufficient scale for internalized property management.

We seek to become a leader in the single-family home rental industry by aggregating a geographically diversified portfolio of high quality single-family homes and developing "American Homes 4 Rent" into a nationally recognized brand that is well-known for quality, value and tenant satisfaction and is well respected in our communities. Our objective is to generate attractive, risk-adjusted returns for our shareholders through dividends and capital appreciation.

We believe that we have been organized and operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under U.S. federal income tax laws, for each of our taxable years commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2012, and we expect to satisfy the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the U.S. federal income tax laws for our taxable year ending December 31, 2014, and subsequent taxable years.

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

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risk factors set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013 and our Quarterly Reports for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2014 and June 30, 2014, together with all the other information contained or incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and the risks we have highlighted in other sections of this prospectus, before making an investment decision to purchase our securities. The occurrence of any of the events described could materially and adversely affect our business, prospects, financial condition, results of operations and our ability to make cash distributions to our shareholders, which could cause you to lose all or a significant part of your investment in our securities. Some statements in this prospectus constitute forward-looking statements. Please refer to the section entitled "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements."

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

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

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED DISTRIBUTIONS**

We compute our ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred distributions by dividing our earnings by the sum of our fixed charges and preferred distributions. We compute our ratio of earnings to fixed charges by dividing our earnings by our fixed charges. Earnings consist of net income before interest expense and noncontrolling interests that have fixed charges.

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2014	Year Ended December 31, 2013(a)	Year Ended December 31, 2012	Period from June 23, 2011 to December 31, 2011
	(in thousands)			
Fixed charges:				
Interest expense	\$ 5,390	\$ 370	\$	\$
Capitalized interest	5,338	9,646		
Preferred distributions(b)	16,994	16,223		
Total fixed charges	\$ 27,722	\$ 26,239	\$	\$
Earnings available for fixed charges:				
Loss from continuing operations	\$ (10,304)	\$ (20,074)	\$ (10,236)	\$ (42)
Fixed charges	27,722	26,239		
Less: capitalized interest	(5,338)	(9,646)		
Less: gain on remeasurement of equity method investment		(10,945)		
Remeasurement of Series E units	7,700	2,057		
Remeasurement of Preferred shares	598	1,810		
Total earnings available for fixed charges	\$ 20,378	\$ (10,559)	\$ (10,236)	\$ (42)
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges		(c)	(d)	n/a

(a) Excludes discontinued operations.

(b) Includes distributions of \$3.2 million on Series A Participating Preferred Shares, \$2.9 million on Series B Participating Preferred Shares, \$1.7 million on Series C Participating Preferred Shares, and \$9.2 million on Series C convertible units for the six months ended June 30, 2014. Includes distributions of \$1.2 million on Series A Participating Preferred Shares, \$14.9 million on Series C convertible units and \$0.1 million on 3.5% convertible perpetual preferred units for the year ended December 31, 2013.

(c) Earnings for the six months ended June 30, 2014 were inadequate to cover fixed charges by \$7.3 million.

(d) Earnings for the year ended December 31, 2013 were inadequate to cover fixed charges by \$36.8 million.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF EQUITY SHARES

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

General

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

As of August 6, 2014, 184,897,969 Class A common shares, 635,075 Class B common shares, 5,060,000 Preferred Shares designated as "Series A Participating Preferred Shares," 4,400,000 Preferred Shares designated as "Series B Participating Preferred Shares" and 7,600,000 Preferred Shares designated as "Series C Participating Preferred Shares" are outstanding. The actual number of holders of our Class A common shares and our Preferred Shares is greater than the record number of holders and includes shareholders who are beneficial owners but whose shares are held in street name by brokers and other nominees.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON SHARES

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

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

Subject to the provisions of our declaration of trust regarding the restrictions on ownership and transfer of our shares and except as may otherwise be specified in our declaration of trust, each outstanding Class A common share entitles the holder to one vote, and each outstanding Class B common share entitles the holder to 50 votes, on all matters on which the shareholders of Class A common shares are entitled to vote, including the election of trustees, and, except as provided with respect to any other class or series of shares, the holders of Class A common shares and Class B common shares will vote together as a single class and will possess the exclusive voting power. Notwithstanding the foregoing, holders of Class B common shares are not entitled to vote on any matter requiring "Partnership Approval." "Partnership Approval" is defined in the agreement of limited partnership of our operating partnership, as amended, as approval obtained when the sum of the (1) the percentage interest of partners consenting to the transaction, plus (2) the product of (a) the percentage of the outstanding Class A units held by the general partner entity multiplied by (b) the percentage of the votes that were cast in favor of the transaction by the holders of the common shares of beneficial interest (or other comparable equity interest) of the general partner entity equals or exceeds the percentage required for the general partner entity's shareholders to approve the transaction. In addition, in no event may holders of shares beneficially owned by Mr. Hughes or HF Investments 2010, LLC, as determined in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, vote more than 30% of the total votes entitled to be cast on any particular matter nor more than 18% of the total votes of the Class A common shares. There is no cumulative voting in the election of our trustees, which means that the shareholders entitled to cast a majority of the votes of the outstanding common shares can elect all of the trustees then standing for election, and the holders of the remaining shares will not be able to elect any trustees. Trustees are elected by a plurality of all the votes cast in the election of trustees. Under a plurality voting standard, trustees who receive the greatest number of votes cast in their favor are elected to the board of trustees.

Power to Reclassify and Issue Shares

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

Conversion of Class B Common Shares

Certain holders of Class B common shares will own the units of limited partnership, or OP units, in our operating partnership. In the event a holder of Class B common shares transfers its OP units to a transferee, other than a "qualified transferee," which includes family members and affiliates of or other entities controlled by such holder, then one Class B common share held by such holder automatically converts into one Class A common share for every 49 OP units transferred by the holder. If the holder of Class B common shares transfers any OP units to a qualified trustee, and then such qualified trustee in turn transfers the same OP units to another qualified trustee of the original transferor, then one Class B common share held by the first qualified transferee will automatically convert into one Class A common share for every 49 OP units transferred by the first qualified

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

transferee. In such case, if the first qualified transferee does not own a sufficient number of Class B common shares, then the initial transferor will be responsible for the deficiency in Class B common shares, and a number of Class A common shares equal to such deficiency held by the initial transferor (or, if the initial transferor does now own sufficient Class B common shares, then one or more other qualified transferees of such initial transferor) will automatically convert into one Class A common share for every 49 OP units. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any Class B common shares transferred to a transferee other than a qualified transferee will automatically convert into an equal number of Class A common shares.

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

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

Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer

Due to limitations on the concentration of ownership of REIT shares imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, subject to certain exceptions, our declaration of trust provides that no person may beneficially own more than 8.0% (in value or in number of shares, whichever is more restrictive) of our outstanding common shares. In addition, our declaration of trust prohibits any person from, among other matters, beneficially owning equity shares if such ownership would result in our being "closely held" within the meaning of Section 856(h) of the Code (without regard to whether the ownership interest is held during the last half of a year); transferring equity shares if such transfer would result in our equity shares being owned by less than 100 persons; and beneficially owning equity shares if such beneficial ownership would otherwise cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT under the Code. Our board of trustees may exempt a person from the ownership limits if such person submits to the board of trustees certain information satisfactory to the board of trustees. See "Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer."

Transfer Agent and Registrar

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

Registration Rights

In connection with our operating partnership's acquisition of our former manager and our former property manager from AH LLC on June 10, 2013, at which time all administrative, financial, property management and marketing and leasing personnel, including executive management, became our fully dedicated personnel, or the Management Internalization, we entered into a registration rights

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

agreement with AH LLC providing for registration rights exercisable after December 10, 2015. After June 10, 2015, if we are eligible to file a shelf registration statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, AH LLC will have the right to request that we file and maintain a shelf registration statement to register for resale the Class A common shares and securities convertible into Class A common shares that are held by AH LLC. In addition, AH LLC has the right to request that we cooperate with AH LLC in up to three underwritten offerings of our Class A common shares under the shelf registration statement, provided such right may not be invoked more often than once every six months (subject to suspension rights in favor of our company) and each such underwritten offering generally must yield gross proceeds to AH LLC of not less than \$100 million per offering. After December 10, 2015, AH LLC has unlimited "piggyback" registration rights to include the Class A common shares and securities convertible into Class A common shares that AH LLC owns in other registration statements that we may initiate, subject to certain conditions and limitations (including cut-back rights in favor of our company). Under the registration rights agreement, we pay all expenses relating to registrations, and AH LLC pays all underwriting discounts and commissions relating to the sale of its Class A common shares. The registration rights agreement contains other customary terms, including for indemnification. The registration rights agreement will terminate when AH LLC may freely sell its Class A common shares pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act. In July 2013, the registration rights agreement was subsequently amended to provide for the registration of any Class A common shares beneficially owned by AH LLC at any time during the term of the agreement.

In connection with our operating partnership's acquisition of the Alaska Joint Venture on June 11, 2013, or the Alaska Joint Venture Acquisition, we entered into a registration rights agreement with the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation, or APFC. Under the terms of such agreement, after we become eligible to file a shelf registration statement, APFC has a right to request that we file and maintain a shelf registration statement with the SEC to register for resale the Class A common shares acquired by APFC in connection with the Alaska Joint Venture Acquisition and the right to request that we cooperate with APFC in up to three underwritten offerings of our Class A common shares under the shelf registration statement. Beginning February 2, 2014, APFC has unlimited "piggyback" registration rights to include the Class A common shares that APFC acquired through the Alaska Joint Venture Acquisition in other registration statements that we may initiate, subject to certain conditions and limitations.

In connection with our acquisition of Beazer Pre-Owned Rental Homes, Inc. on July 1, 2014, or the Beazer Acquisition, we agreed in the agreement and plan of merger relating to the Beazer Acquisition, subject to certain exceptions, to file a registration statement relating to the resale of our Class A common shares issued in connection with the Beazer Acquisition no later than August 15, 2014 and to cause the registration statement to remain effective until the earlier of the date all of such Class A common shares have been resold pursuant to the registration statement, the date all of such Class A common shares are eligible to be freely resold pursuant to Rule 144(b)(1) under the Securities Act or one year after the closing of the Beazer Acquisition. We also agreed to pay the reasonable costs and expenses incurred in connection with our foregoing obligations, but excluding all selling commissions applicable to the sale of the Class A common shares and all fees of legal counsel for any holder of Class A common shares. The registration rights provisions include other customary terms, including for indemnification.

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

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED SHARES

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

As of August 7, 2014, 5,060,000 Preferred Shares designated as "Series A Participating Preferred Shares," 4,400,000 Preferred Shares designated as "Series B Participating Preferred Shares" and 7,600,000 Preferred Shares designated as "Series C Participating Preferred Shares" are outstanding.

General

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

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

the title and stated value of such preferred shares;

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

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

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

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

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

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

any listing of such preferred shares on any securities exchange;

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

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

Restrictions on Ownership

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

Transfer Agent and Registrar

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

Certain Provisions of Maryland Law and Our Charter and Bylaws

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

Series A Participating Preferred Shares

General

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

Maturity and Preemptive Rights

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

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

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

Ranking

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

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

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

Dividends

Holders of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares are entitled to receive cumulative cash dividends payable quarterly in arrears on the last day of March, June, September and December of each year, at the rate of 5.000% per annum on the initial liquidation preference per share (equivalent to the fixed annual rate of \$1.25 per share). The first dividend was paid on December 31, 2013 to holders of record as of December 15, 2013 and was a pro rata dividend from and including October 25, 2013, or the original issue date, to but excluding December 31, 2013. If any dividend payment date falls on any day other than a business day as defined in the Articles Supplementary for our Series A Participating Preferred Shares, the dividend due on such dividend payment date is paid on the first business day immediately following such dividend payment date, and no dividends will accrue as a result of such delay. Dividends accrue and are cumulative from, and including, the prior dividend payment date (or, if no prior dividend payment date, the original issue date of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares) to, but excluding, the next dividend payment date, to holders of record as of 5:00 p.m., New York time, on the related record date. The record dates for the Series A Participating Preferred Shares are the March 15, June 15, September 15 or December 15 immediately preceding the relevant dividend payment date, regardless of whether that day is a business day. Prior to September 30, 2020, no dividends will accrue or be paid on any HPA Amount (as defined below).

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

Our board of trustees will not authorize and we will not pay or set apart for payment dividends on our Series A Participating Preferred Shares at any time when the terms and provisions of any agreement of ours, including any agreement relating to our indebtedness, prohibits the authorization, payment or setting apart for payment or provides that the authorization, payment or setting apart for payment would constitute a breach of the agreement or a default under the agreement, or if the authorization, payment or setting apart for payment shall be restricted or prohibited by law. We also have the right to withhold, from any amounts otherwise payable to you, with respect to all distributions (deemed or actual) to the extent that withholding is or was required for such distributions under applicable tax withholding rules. You should review the information appearing in the last paragraph under the caption " Dividends" for information regarding the circumstances under which the terms of

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

our credit facility may limit or prohibit the payment of dividends on the Series A Participating Preferred Shares.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, dividends on the Series A Participating Preferred Shares accrue whether or not there are funds legally available for the payment of those dividends, whether or not we have earnings and whether or not those dividends are authorized. No interest, or sum in lieu of interest, is payable in respect of any dividend payment or payments on the Series A Participating Preferred Shares that may be in arrears, and holders of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares are not entitled to any dividends in excess of full cumulative dividends described above. Any dividend payment made on the Series A Participating Preferred Shares, including any Capital Gains Amounts, as described in the paragraph below, is first credited against the earliest accrued but unpaid dividend due with respect to those shares.

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

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

Voting Rights

Holders of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares generally have no voting rights. However, in the event we are in arrears on dividends, whether or not authorized or declared, on the Series A Participating Preferred Shares for six or more quarterly periods, whether or not consecutive, holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares (voting separately as a class together with the holders of all other classes or series of parity preferred shares and upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable) will be entitled to elect two additional trustees at a special meeting called upon the request of at least 10% of such holders or at our next annual meeting and each subsequent annual meeting of shareholders, each additional trustee being referred to as a Preferred Share Trustee, until all unpaid dividends with respect to the Series A Participating Preferred Shares and such other classes or series of preferred shares with like voting rights, including the Series B and Series C Participating Preferred Shares, have been paid or declared and set aside for payment. Preferred Share Trustees will be elected by a vote of holders of record of a majority of the outstanding Series A Participating Preferred Shares and any other series of parity equity shares with like voting rights, including the

Table of Contents

Series B and Series C Participating Preferred Shares, voting together as a class. Special meetings called in accordance with the provisions described in this paragraph shall be subject to the procedures in our bylaws, except that we, rather than the holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares, or any other class or series of parity preferred shares entitled to vote thereon when they have the voting rights described above (voting together as a single class), including the Series B and Series C Participating Preferred Shares will pay all costs and expenses of calling and holding the meeting.

Any Preferred Share Trustee may be removed at any time with or without cause by the vote of, and may not be removed otherwise than by the vote of, the holders of record of a majority of the outstanding Series A Participating Preferred Shares and all other classes or series of parity preferred shares entitled to vote thereon when they have the voting rights described above (voting together as a single class), including the Series B and Series C Participating Preferred Shares. So long as a dividend arrearage continues, any vacancy in the office of a Preferred Share Trustee may be filled by written consent of the Preferred Share Trustee remaining in office, or if none remains in office, by a vote of the holders of record of a majority of the outstanding Series A Participating Preferred Shares when they have the voting rights described above (voting as a single class with all other classes or series of parity preferred shares upon which like voting rights have been conferred and are exercisable), including the Series B and Series C Participating Preferred Shares.

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

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

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

Liquidation Preference

If we experience a Liquidation Event, holders of our Series A Participating Preferred Shares will have the right to receive the sum of (i) the initial liquidation preference, (ii) the HPA Amount (if the HPA Amount for the relevant period is a positive number) and (iii) an amount per Series A Participating Preferred Share equal to all dividends (whether or not authorized or declared) accrued

Table of Contents

and unpaid thereon to, but excluding, the date of final distribution to such holders, or the Final Liquidation Preference, before any distribution or payment is made to holders of our securities and any other class or series of our equity shares ranking junior to the Series A Participating Preferred Shares as to liquidation, dissolution or winding up. The rights of holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares to receive this amount will be subject to the proportionate rights of any other class or series of our equity shares ranking on parity with the Series A Participating Preferred Shares as to rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, including the Series B and Series C Participating Preferred Shares, and junior to the rights of any class or series of our equity shares expressly designated as ranking senior to the Series A Participating Preferred Shares.

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

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

Home Price Appreciation Amount

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

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

Home Price Appreciation Factor

HPA represents the cumulative change in value from June 30, 2013 of an index tracking the purchase prices of single-family homes located in our top 20 markets, by estimated total investment, as of July 31, 2013. HPA is determined using the Quarterly POI, specifically the non-seasonally adjusted "Purchase-Only Index" for the "100 Largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas," currently disclosed at the following URL: <http://www.fhfa.gov/weblink/hpicbsapo.txt>. The contents of the FHFA website are not incorporated by reference in or otherwise part of this prospectus. Other indices referenced in this prospectus will not be used in calculating the HPA Amount.

The POI is a weighted, repeat-sales index, meaning that it measures average price changes in repeat sales of the same single-family properties. This information is obtained by reviewing repeat transactions involving conforming, conventional mortgages purchased or securitized by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac since January 1975. Only mortgage transactions involving single-family homes are included. Conforming refers to a mortgage that both meets the underwriting guidelines of Fannie Mae

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

or Freddie Mac and that does not exceed the conforming loan limit that is currently \$625,000 for mortgages in the contiguous United States originated after September 30, 2011. Conventional mortgages are those that are neither insured nor guaranteed by the FHA, VA or other federal government entities. Mortgages on properties financed by government-insured loans, such as FHA or VA mortgages, are excluded from the POI, as are properties with mortgages that have a principal amount exceeding the conforming loan limit.

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

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

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

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

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

$$\text{Cumulative HPA} = \frac{(\text{HPA}_1 \times W_1) + (\text{HPA}_2 \times W_2) + (\text{HPA}_3 \times W_3) + \dots + (\text{HPA}_{21} \times W_{21})}{18} \div 100$$

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

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

MSA	Relative Weighting Applied in Determining Cumulative HPA
Dallas Plano Irving, TX(1)	4.754%
Fort Worth Arlington, TX(1)	4.753%
Indianapolis Carmel Anderson, IN	8.880%
Chicago Naperville Arlington Heights, IL	7.679%
Atlanta Sandy Springs Roswell, GA	7.545%
Nashville Davidson Murfreesboro Franklin, TN	6.390%
Houston The Woodlands Sugar Land, TX	6.312%
Cincinnati, OH KY IN	6.119%
Salt Lake City, UT	5.495%
Tampa St. Petersburg Clearwater, FL	5.361%
Charlotte Concord Gastonia, NC	5.354%
Phoenix Mesa Scottsdale, AZ	5.270%
Jacksonville, FL	4.776%
Las Vegas Henderson Paradise, NV	4.371%
Raleigh, NC	4.040%
Columbus, OH	3.167%
Orlando Kissimmee Sanford, FL	3.036%
Tucson, AZ	1.867%
Greensboro High Point, NC	1.789%
Austin Round Rock, TX	1.550%
San Antonio New Braunfels, TX	1.490%
TOTAL (21 MSAs)	100%

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

The change in HPA for each MSA since June 30, 2013 is included in the calculation of "Cumulative HPA" regardless of whether it is positive, negative or zero. The home price appreciation factor, or HPA Factor, for any period equals the product of Cumulative HPA (calculated as described above) for such period (expressed as a percentage) multiplied by a constant investor participation percentage of 50%. The HPA Amount, at any time it is measured, cannot be negative, so the liquidation preference per Series A Participating Preferred Share is always at least \$25.00.

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

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

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

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

Market	Relative Weighting Applied in Determining HPA(1)	Actual POI Value as of Jun 30, 2013(2)	Multiplier Applied to Establish Baseline Value(3)	Assigned Baseline Value(4)
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX(5)	9.507%	187.5	0.533	100.0
Indianapolis, IN	8.880%	164.5	0.608	100.0
Greater Chicago Area, IL(6)	7.679%	182.2	0.549	100.0
Atlanta, GA	7.545%	174.2	0.574	100.0
Nashville, TN	6.390%	230.7	0.433	100.0
Houston, TX	6.312%	241.2	0.415	100.0
Cincinnati, OH	6.119%	166.3	0.601	100.0
Salt Lake City, UT	5.495%	323.9	0.309	100.0
Tampa, FL	5.361%	209.6	0.477	100.0
Charlotte, NC	5.354%	186.8	0.535	100.0
Phoenix, AZ	5.270%	232.5	0.430	100.0
Jacksonville, FL	4.776%	211.7	0.472	100.0
Las Vegas, NV	4.371%	133.3	0.750	100.0
Raleigh, NC	4.040%	197.1	0.507	100.0
Columbus, OH	3.167%	178.9	0.559	100.0
Orlando, FL	3.036%	180.0	0.556	100.0
Tucson, AZ	1.867%	206.7	0.484	100.0
Greensboro, NC	1.789%	161.0	0.621	100.0
Austin, TX	1.550%	316.1	0.316	100.0
San Antonio, TX	1.490%	226.5	0.442	100.0

- (1) Based on estimated total investment in each market as of July 31, 2013. These were the weighting factors for measurement of HPA.
- (2) Represents the values as published in the POI for each market as of October 18, 2013. Such values are subject to revision by the FHFA in subsequent POI releases.
- (3) In order to index the POI Value for each market as of June 30, 2013, which was the date from which the cumulative change in HPA was measured for purposes of calculating the HPA Amount, the POI Value for each market as of such date was assigned a baseline index value of 100.0 by multiplying each by the multiplier indicated in the table above. The multipliers set forth above are

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

presented solely for the purpose of indicating the numerical relationship between the actual POI Value for each of the markets and the indexed baseline value of 100.0 for such markets. The multipliers remain constant throughout the term of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares.

- (4) Equals the product of the actual POI Value for each market as of June 30, 2013, multiplied by the baseline multiplier for each market.
- (5) Our Dallas-Fort Worth, TX market is comprised of the Dallas-Plano-Irving and Fort Worth-Arlington Metropolitan Divisions, with each division given equal weighting for purposes determining HPA.
- (6) The home price index for the Greater Chicago Area, IL market is Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, IL.

HPA Amount Cap

Until September 30, 2020, the amount payable upon any conversion, redemption or liquidation event is subject to a cap, such that the total internal rate of return, when considering the initial liquidation preference, plus the HPA Amount (if positive), plus all dividends (whether paid or accrued) to, but excluding, the date of such redemption, conversion or final distribution to holders in respect of a Liquidation Event, shall not exceed 9%. On September 30, 2020, the HPA Amount will become fixed and cease to accrue and the dividend yield will increase to 10.000% per annum on the liquidation preference plus the HPA Amount.

Redemption

Redemption at Our Option

We may not redeem the Series A Participating Preferred Shares before September 30, 2017, except in limited circumstances relating to maintaining our qualification as a REIT, as described below in " Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer" and pursuant to the special optional redemption provisions upon a change in control that are specified below.

Any time after September 30, 2017 but before September 30, 2020, we may redeem for cash all but not less than all of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares at a redemption price per Series A Participating Preferred Share equal to the Final Liquidation Preference.

At any time after September 30, 2020, we may redeem for cash all but not less than all of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares at a redemption price per share equal to the initial liquidation preference, plus the HPA Amount (if positive) calculated with respect to the period ended June 30, 2020 (if the HPA Amount for such period is a positive number), plus any accrued but unpaid dividends. The initial liquidation preference of \$25.00 plus the HPA Amount calculated with respect to the period ended June 30, 2020, is referred to as the Adjusted Value.

There is no restriction on our ability to redeem Series A Participating Preferred Shares while dividends are in arrearage.

Special Redemption Option upon a Change of Control

Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control (as defined below), we may redeem for cash all but not less than all of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares within 120 days after the date on which such Change of Control occurred, by paying the Final Liquidation Preference. If, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date (as defined below under the caption " Conversion Rights Conversion upon a Change in Control"), we have provided or provide notice of redemption with respect to the Series A Participating Preferred Shares (whether pursuant to our optional redemption right, our special redemption option or pursuant to the right described under " Redemption upon an Absence of

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

Suitable Indices Event"), the holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares will not be permitted to exercise the conversion right described below under " Conversion Rights Conversion upon a Change of Control."

We will mail to you, if you are a record holder of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares, a notice of redemption no fewer than 30 days nor more than 60 days before the redemption date. We will send the notice to your address shown on our transfer books. A failure to give notice of redemption or any defect in the notice or in its mailing will not affect the validity of the redemption of any Series A Participating Preferred Shares except as to the holder to whom notice was defective. Each notice will state the following:

the redemption date;

the special redemption price;

a statement setting forth the calculation of such special redemption price;

the number of Series A Participating Preferred Shares to be redeemed;

the place or places where the certificates, if any, representing Series A Participating Preferred Shares are to be surrendered for payment of the redemption price;

procedures for surrendering noncertificated Series A Participating Preferred Shares for payment of the redemption price;

that dividends on the Series A Participating Preferred Shares to be redeemed will cease to accrue on such redemption date unless we fail to pay the redemption price on such date;

that payment of the redemption price and any accrued and unpaid dividends will be made upon presentation and surrender of such Series A Participating Preferred Shares;

that the Series A Participating Preferred Shares are being redeemed pursuant to our special redemption option right in connection with the occurrence of a Change of Control and a brief description of the transaction or transactions constituting such Change of Control; and

that the holders of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares to which the notice relates will not be able to tender such Series A Participating Preferred Shares for conversion in connection with the Change of Control and each Series A Participating Preferred Share tendered for conversion that is selected, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date, for redemption will be redeemed on the related date of redemption instead of converted on the Change of Control Conversion Date.

A "Change of Control" means, after the initial issuance of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares, the following have occurred and are continuing:

the acquisition by any person, including any syndicate or group deemed to be a "person" under Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, of beneficial ownership, directly or indirectly, through a purchase, merger or other acquisition transaction or series of purchases, mergers or other acquisition transactions of securities of the Company entitling that person to exercise more than 50% of the total voting power of all shares of beneficial interest of the Company entitled to vote generally in the election of our trustees (except that such person will be deemed to have beneficial ownership of all securities that such person has the right to acquire, whether such right is currently exercisable or is exercisable only upon the occurrence of a

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

subsequent condition); and

following the closing of any transaction referred to in the bullet point above, neither we nor the acquiring or surviving entity has a class of common securities (or American Depositary Receipts representing such securities) listed on the NYSE, the NYSE MKT or the NASDAQ Stock

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

Market, or NASDAQ, or listed or quoted on an exchange or quotation system that is a successor to the NYSE, the NYSE MKT or NASDAQ.

Redemption upon an Absence of Suitable Indices Event

If, following an Absence of Suitable Indices Event, we do not convert all of the outstanding Series A Participating Preferred Shares in accordance with the provisions described under " Conversion Rights Conversion upon an Absence of Suitable Indices Event," then we will redeem all of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares for cash at a redemption price equal to the Final Liquidation Preference.

Conversion Rights

Conversion at Our Option

At any time after September 30, 2017, we may convert all but not less than all of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares into our Class A common shares. The conversion ratio for such one-time conversion will be determined by a formula and cannot be determined until the conversion date.

If such one-time conversion occurs after September 30, 2017 but before September 30, 2020, the formula for determining the conversion ratio per Series A Participating Preferred Share will be the sum of (i) the initial liquidation preference, (ii) the HPA Amount for the relevant period (if the HPA Amount for such period is a positive number) and (iii) any accrued and unpaid dividends to, but excluding, the fourth business day following the notice of conversion, divided by the one-day volume-weighted average price of our Class A common shares on the NYSE, or VWAP, as reported by Bloomberg, if available, on the day the notice of conversion is issued.

If such one-time conversion occurs on or after September 30, 2020, the formula for determining the conversion ratio will be (i) the Adjusted Value, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends to, but not including, the conversion date, divided by (ii) the VWAP as reported by Bloomberg on the date the notice of conversion is issued.

If a VWAP is not available on Bloomberg Business News or a similar publication, then the volume weighted average of the high and low trading prices of the Class A Shares on the NYSE (or, if not listed on the NYSE, such other domestic securities exchange as the Class A Shares may be listed or traded) calculated using the high and low prices (volume weighted) as reported on Bloomberg Business News or a similar publication on the date the notice of conversion is issued shall be used in place of VWAP for all purposes hereunder.

Conversion upon a Change of Control

Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control, each holder of Series A Participating Preferred Shares will have the right (unless, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date (as defined below), we have provided or provide notice of our election to redeem the Series A Participating Preferred Shares as described above under " Redemption Special Redemption Option upon a Change of Control") to convert some or all of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares held by such holder, or the Change of Control Conversion Right, on the Change of Control Conversion Date into a number of our Class A common shares per share of Series A Participating Preferred Shares to be converted equal to the lesser of:

the quotient obtained by dividing (i) the sum of (x) the initial liquidation preference, plus (y) the HPA Amount for the relevant period (if the HPA Amount for such period is a positive number), plus (z) any accrued and unpaid dividends (whether or not declared) to, but excluding, the Change of Control Conversion Date (unless the Change of Control Conversion Date is after a record date for a Series A Participating Preferred Shares dividend payment for

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

which dividends have been declared and prior to the corresponding Series A Participating Preferred Shares dividend payment date, in which case no additional amount for such accrued and unpaid dividend will be included in this sum) and such declared dividend will instead be paid, on such dividend payment date, to the holder of record of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares to be converted as of 5:00 p.m. New York City time, on such record date) by (ii) the Class A Share Price (as defined below); and

3.16 (i.e., the Share Cap), subject to certain adjustments;

subject, in each case, to provisions for the receipt of alternative consideration as described in this prospectus.

The Share Cap is subject to pro rata adjustments for any share splits (including those effected pursuant to a distribution of our common shares), subdivisions or combinations (in each case, a "Share Split") with respect to our common shares as follows: the adjusted Share Cap as the result of a Share Split will be the number of common shares that is equivalent to the product obtained by multiplying (i) the Share Cap in effect immediately prior to such Share Split by (ii) a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of common shares outstanding after giving effect to such Share Split and the denominator of which is the number of our common shares outstanding immediately prior to such Share Split.

In the case of a Change of Control pursuant to which our common shares will be converted into cash, securities or other property or assets (including any combination thereof), or the Alternative Form Consideration, a holder of Series A Participating Preferred Shares will receive upon conversion of such Series A Participating Preferred Shares the kind and amount of Alternative Form Consideration that such holder would have owned or to which that holder would have been entitled to receive upon the Change of Control had such holder held a number of shares of our common shares equal to the Common Share Conversion Consideration immediately prior to the effective time of the Change of Control (the "Alternative Conversion Consideration," and the Common Share Conversion Consideration or the Alternative Conversion Consideration, as may be applicable to a Change of Control, is referred to as the "Conversion Consideration").

If the holders of our common shares have the opportunity to elect the form of consideration to be received in the Change of Control, the Conversion Consideration will be deemed to be the kind and amount of consideration actually received by holders of a majority of our common shares that voted for such an election (if electing between two types of consideration) or holders of a plurality of our common shares that voted for such an election (if electing between more than two types of consideration), as the case may be, and will be subject to any limitations to which all holders of our common shares are subject, including, without limitation, pro rata reductions applicable to any portion of the consideration payable in the Change of Control.

Within 15 days following the occurrence of a Change of Control, we will provide to holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares a notice of occurrence of the Change of Control that describes the resulting Change of Control Conversion Right. This notice will state the following:

the events constituting the Change of Control;

the date of the Change of Control;

the last date and time by which the holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares may exercise their Change of Control Conversion Right;

the method and period for calculating the Class A Share Price;

the Change of Control Conversion Date;

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

that if, prior to the Change of Control Conversion Date, we have provided or provide notice of our election to redeem all or any portion of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares, holders will not be able to convert Series A Participating Preferred Shares designated for redemption and such shares will be redeemed on the related redemption date, even if such shares have already been tendered for conversion pursuant to the Change of Control Conversion Right;

if applicable, the type and amount of Alternative Conversion Consideration entitled to be received per Series A Participating Preferred Share;

the name and address of the paying agent and the conversion agent; and

the procedures that the holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares must follow to exercise the Change of Control Conversion Right.

We will issue a press release for publication on the Dow Jones & Company, Inc., Business Wire, PR Newswire or Bloomberg Business News (or, if these organizations are not in existence at the time of issuance of the press release, such other news or press organization as is reasonably calculated to broadly disseminate the relevant information to the public), or post a notice on our website, in any event prior to the opening of business on the first business day following any date on which we provide the notice described above to the holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares.

To exercise the Change of Control Conversion Right, the holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares will be required to deliver, on or before the close of business on the Change of Control Conversion Date, the certificates (if any) or book entries representing Series A Participating Preferred Shares to be converted, duly endorsed for transfer (if certificates are delivered), together with a completed written conversion notice to our transfer agent. The conversion notice must state:

the relevant Change of Control Conversion Date;

the number of Series A Participating Preferred Shares to be converted; and

that the Series A Participating Preferred Shares are to be converted pursuant to the Change of Control Conversion Right Series A Participating Preferred Shares.

The "Change of Control Conversion Date" is the date on which the Series A Participating Preferred Shares are to be converted, which will be a business day selected by us that is no fewer than 20 days nor more than 35 days after the date on which we provide the notice described above to the holders of Series A Participating Preferred Shares.

The "Class A Share Price" will be (i) if the consideration to be received in the Change of Control by the holders of our Class A common shares is solely cash, the amount of cash consideration per Class A common share or (ii) if the consideration to be received in the Change of Control by holders of our Class A common shares is other than solely cash (x) the average of the closing sale prices per share of our Class A common shares (or, if no closing sale price is reported, the average of the closing bid and ask prices or, if more than one in either case, the average of the average closing bid and the average closing ask prices) for the 10 consecutive trading days immediately preceding, but not including, the effective date of the Change of Control as reported on the principal U.S. securities exchange on which our Class A common shares are then traded, or (y) the average of the last quoted bid prices for our Class A common shares in the over-the-counter market as reported by OTC Markets Group, Inc. or similar organization for the 10 consecutive trading days immediately preceding, but not including, the effective date of the Change of Control, if our Class A common shares are not then listed for trading on a U.S. securities exchange.

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Table of Contents

Conversion upon an Absence of Suitable Indices Event

If, following an Absence of Suitable Indices Event, we do not redeem all of the outstanding Series A Participating Preferred Shares in accordance with the provisions described under "Redemption Redemption upon an Absence of Suitable Indices Event," then we will convert all of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares into Class A common shares, at a conversion ratio per Series A Participating Preferred Share equal to the sum of (i) the initial liquidation preference, (ii) the HPA Amount for the relevant period (if the HPA Amount for such period is a positive number) and (iii) any accrued and unpaid dividends to, but excluding, the fourth business day following the notice of conversion, divided by the VWAP, as reported by Bloomberg, if available, on the day the notice of conversion is issued.

If a VWAP is not available on Bloomberg Business News or a similar publication, then the volume weighted average of the high and low trading prices of our Class A common shares on the NYSE (or, if not listed on the NYSE, such other domestic securities exchange as our Class A common shares may be listed or traded) calculated using the high and low prices (volume weighted) as reported on Bloomberg Business News or a similar publication on the date the notice of conversion is issued shall be used in place of VWAP for all purposes hereunder.

Fractional Shares; Delivery of Class A Common Shares

Upon conversion of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares, whether pursuant to the rights described under "Conversion at Our Option," "Conversion upon a Change of Control" or "Conversion upon an Absence of Suitable Indices Event," we will deliver the Class A common shares due upon conversion as soon as practicable on or after, but in no event later than the fourth business day after, the conversion date or Change of Control Conversion Date, as applicable. However, on the conversion date or Change of Control Conversion Date, as applicable, the holder to whom the Class A common shares due upon conversion are to be issued will be deemed to be a holder of record of such Class A common shares.

We will not issue fractional Class A common shares upon the conversion of the Series A Participating Preferred Shares. Instead, we will pay the cash value of any fractional share otherwise due, computed on the basis of the applicable per share VWAP for a conversion at our option or the Class A Share Price for a conversion upon the occurrence of a Change of Control, as applicable.

Listing

Our Series A Participating Preferred Shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "AMHPRA."

Series B Participating Preferred Shares

The following description of certain terms and conditions of our 5.000% Series B Participating Preferred Shares does not purport to be complete and is in all respects subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to our declaration of trust, including the Articles Supplementary setting forth the terms of our Series B Participating Preferred Shares, our bylaws and Maryland law. Our declaration of trust, including the Articles Supplementary for our Series B Participating Preferred Shares, and our bylaws are incorporated by reference into this prospectus from our SEC filings. The terms and provisions of our Series B Participating Preferred Shares are substantially the same as those of our Series A Participating Preferred Shares as described in "Description of Series A Participating Preferred Shares" above, except that the original issue date for the Series B Participating Preferred Shares was December 20, 2013, and the first dividend on the Series B Participating Preferred Shares was paid on March 31, 2014 to holders of record as of March 15, 2014. Our Series B Participating Preferred Shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "AMHPRB."

Table of Contents

Series C Participating Preferred Shares

The following description of certain terms and conditions of our 5.500% Series C Participating Preferred Shares does not purport to be complete and is in all respects subject to, and qualified in its entirety by reference to our declaration of trust, including the Articles Supplementary setting forth the terms of our Series C Participating Preferred Shares, our bylaws and Maryland law. Our declaration of trust, including the Articles Supplementary for our Series C Participating Preferred Shares, and our bylaws are incorporated by reference into this prospectus from our SEC filings. The terms and provisions of our Series C Participating Preferred Shares are substantially the same as those of our Series A Participating Preferred Shares as described in "Description of Series A Participating Preferred Shares" above, except that (i) the dividend rate for our Series C Participating Preferred Shares is 5.500% per annum of the initial liquidation preference per share, (ii) the original issue date for the Series C Participating Preferred Shares was April 29, 2014, (iii) the first dividend on the Series C Participating Preferred Shares was paid on June 30, 2014 to holders of record as of June 15, 2014, and, (iv) for the Series C Participating Preferred Shares, HPA represents the cumulative change in value from December 31, 2013 of an index tracking the purchase prices of single-family homes located in our top 20 markets, by estimated total investment, as of July 31, 2013. Our Series C Participating Preferred Shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "AMHPRC."

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

General

We may issue receipts for depositary shares, each of which will represent a fractional interest of a preferred share of a particular series, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement. Preferred shares of each series represented by depositary shares will be deposited under a separate deposit agreement among us, the depositary named therein and the holders from time to time of the depositary receipts. Subject to the terms of the applicable deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary receipt will be entitled, in proportion to the fractional interest of a preferred share of a particular series represented by the depositary shares evidenced by such depositary receipt, to all the rights and preferences of the preferred shares represented by such depositary shares (including dividend, voting, conversion, redemption and liquidation rights).

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the applicable deposit agreement. Immediately following the issuance and delivery of the preferred shares by us to a preferred share depositary, we will cause such preferred shares depositary to issue, on our behalf, the depositary receipts. Copies of the applicable form of deposit agreement and depositary receipt may be obtained from us upon request, and the statements made hereunder relating to the deposit agreement and the depositary receipts to be issued thereunder are summaries of certain provisions thereof and do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the applicable deposit agreement and related depositary receipts.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The preferred share depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received in respect of the preferred shares to the record holders of depositary receipts evidencing the related depositary shares in proportion to the number of such depositary receipts owned by such holders, subject to certain obligations of holders to file proofs, certificates and other information and to pay certain charges and expenses to the preferred shares depositary.

In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the preferred shares depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary receipts entitled thereto, subject to certain obligations of holders to file proofs, certificates and other information and to pay certain charges and expenses to the preferred shares depositary, unless the preferred shares depositary determines that it is not feasible to make such distribution, in which case the preferred shares depositary may, with our approval, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from such sale to such holders.

No distribution will be made in respect of any depositary share to the extent that it represents any preferred shares converted into other securities.

Withdrawal of Shares

Upon surrender of the depositary receipts at the corporate trust office of the applicable preferred shares depositary (unless the related depositary shares have previously been called for redemption or converted into other securities), the holders thereof will be entitled to delivery at such office, to or upon such holder's order, of the number of whole or fractional preferred shares and any money or other property represented by the depositary shares evidenced by such depositary receipts. Holders of depositary receipts will be entitled to receive whole or fractional preferred shares on the basis of the proportion of preferred shares represented by each depositary share as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, but holders of such preferred shares will not thereafter be entitled to receive depositary shares therefor. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of preferred

Table of Contents

shares to be withdrawn, the preferred shares depositary will deliver to such holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing such excess number of depositary shares.

Redemption of Depositary Shares

Whenever we redeem preferred shares held by the preferred shares depositary, the preferred shares depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of depositary shares representing preferred shares so redeemed, provided we shall have paid in full to the preferred shares depositary the redemption price of the preferred shares to be redeemed plus an amount equal to any accrued and unpaid dividends thereon to the date fixed for redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the corresponding proportion of the redemption price and any other amounts per share payable with respect to the preferred shares. If fewer than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected pro rata (as nearly as may be practicable without creating fractional depositary shares) or by any other equitable method determined by us that will not result in a violation of the ownership restrictions in our declaration of trust. See "Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer."

From and after the date fixed for redemption, all dividends in respect of the preferred shares so called for redemption will cease to accrue, the depositary shares so called for redemption will no longer be deemed to be outstanding and all rights of the holders of the depositary receipts evidencing the depositary shares so called for redemption will cease, except the right to receive any moneys payable upon such redemption and any money or other property to which the holders of such depositary receipts were entitled upon such redemption and surrender thereof to the preferred shares depositary.

Voting of the Depositary Shares

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the applicable preferred shares are entitled to vote, the preferred shares depositary will mail the information contained in such notice of meeting to the record holders of the depositary receipts evidencing the depositary shares which represent such preferred shares. Each record holder of depositary receipts evidencing depositary shares on the record date (which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred shares) will be entitled to instruct the preferred shares depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the amount of preferred shares represented by such holder's depositary shares. The preferred shares depositary will vote the amount of preferred shares represented by such depositary shares in accordance with such instructions, and we will agree to take all reasonable action which may be deemed necessary by the preferred shares depositary in order to enable the preferred shares depositary to do so. The preferred shares depositary will abstain from voting the amount of preferred shares represented by such depositary shares to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary receipts evidencing such depositary shares. The preferred shares depositary shall not be responsible for any failure to carry out any instruction to vote, or for the manner or effect of any such vote made, as long as any such action or non-action is in good faith and does not result from negligence or willful misconduct of the preferred shares depositary.

Liquidation Preference

In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary, the holders of each depositary receipt will be entitled to the fraction of the liquidation preference accorded each preferred share represented by the depositary shares evidenced by such depositary receipt, as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Conversion of the Depositary Shares

The depositary shares, as such, are not convertible into common shares or any of our other securities or property. Nevertheless, if so specified in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to an offering of depositary shares, the depositary receipts may be surrendered by holders thereof to the preferred shares depositary with written instructions to the preferred shares depositary to instruct us to cause conversion of the preferred shares represented by the depositary shares evidenced by such depositary receipts into whole common shares, other preferred shares, and we have agreed that upon receipt of such instructions and any amounts payable in respect thereof, we will cause the conversion thereof utilizing the same procedures as those provided for delivery of preferred shares to effect such conversion. If the depositary shares evidenced by a depositary receipt are to be converted in part only, a new depositary receipt or receipts will be issued for any depositary shares not to be converted. No fractional common shares will be issued upon conversion, and if such conversion would result in a fractional share being issued, an amount will be paid in cash by us equal to the value of the fractional interest based upon the closing price of the common shares on the last business day prior to the conversion.

Amendment and Termination of Deposit Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares which represent the preferred shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may at any time be amended by agreement between us and the preferred shares depositary. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of depositary receipts or that would be materially and adversely inconsistent with the rights granted to the holders of the related preferred shares will not be effective unless such amendment has been approved by the existing holders of at least two-thirds of the applicable depositary shares evidenced by the applicable depositary receipts then outstanding. No amendment shall impair the right, subject to certain exceptions in the deposit agreement, of any holder of depositary receipts to surrender any depositary receipt with instructions to deliver to the holder the related preferred shares and all money and other property, if any, represented thereby, except in order to comply with law. Every holder of an outstanding depositary receipt at the time any such amendment becomes effective shall be deemed, by continuing to hold such receipt, to consent and agree to such amendment and to be bound by the deposit agreement as amended thereby.

The deposit agreement may be terminated by us upon not less than 30 days' prior written notice to the preferred shares depositary if (i) such termination is necessary to preserve our status as a REIT or (ii) a majority of each series of preferred shares affected by such termination consents to such termination, whereupon the preferred shares depositary shall deliver or make available to each holder of depositary receipts, upon surrender of the depositary receipts held by such holder, such number of whole or fractional preferred shares as are represented by the depositary shares evidenced by such depositary receipts together with any other property held by the preferred shares depositary with respect to such depositary receipts. We have agreed that if the deposit agreement is terminated to preserve our status as a REIT, then we will use our best efforts to list the preferred shares issued upon surrender of the related depositary shares on a national securities exchange. In addition, the deposit agreement will automatically terminate if (i) all outstanding depositary shares shall have been redeemed, (ii) there shall have been a final distribution in respect of the related preferred shares in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up and such distribution shall have been distributed to the holders of depositary receipts evidencing the depositary shares representing such preferred shares or (iii) each related preferred share shall have been converted into our securities not so represented by depositary shares.

Table of Contents

Charges of Preferred Shares Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the deposit agreement. In addition, we will pay the fees and expenses of the preferred shares depositary in connection with the performance of its duties under the deposit agreement. However, holders of depositary receipts will pay the fees and expenses of the preferred shares depositary for any duties requested by such holders to be performed which are outside of those expressly provided for in the deposit agreement.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

The preferred shares depositary may resign at any time by delivering to us notice of its election to do so, and we may at any time remove the preferred shares depositary, any such resignation or removal to take effect upon the appointment of a successor preferred shares depositary. A successor preferred shares depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$10,000,000.

Miscellaneous

The preferred shares depositary will forward to holders of depositary receipts any reports and communications from the Company which are received by the preferred shares depositary with respect to the related preferred shares.

Neither the preferred shares depositary nor the Company will be liable if it is prevented from or delayed in, by law or any circumstances beyond its control, performing its obligations under the deposit agreement. The obligations of us and the preferred shares depositary under the deposit agreement will be limited to performing their duties thereunder in good faith and without negligence (in the case of any action or inaction in the voting of preferred shares represented by the depositary shares), gross negligence or willful misconduct, and we and the preferred shares depositary will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary receipts, depositary shares or preferred shares represented thereby unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the preferred shares depositary may rely on written advice of counsel or accountants, or information provided by persons presenting preferred shares represented thereby for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed in good faith to be competent to give such information, and on documents believed in good faith to be genuine and signed by a proper party.

In the event the preferred shares depositary shall receive conflicting claims, requests or instructions from any holders of depositary receipts, on the one hand, and us, on the other hand, the preferred shares depositary shall be entitled to act on such claims, requests or instructions received from us.

Restrictions on Ownership

Holders of depositary receipts will be subject to the ownership restrictions set forth in the declaration of trust. See "Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer."

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may offer by means of this prospectus warrants for the purchase of our preferred shares, depositary shares representing preferred shares or common shares. We may issue warrants separately or together with any other securities offered by means of this prospectus, and the warrants may be attached to or separate from such securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent specified therein. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants of such series and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the following terms, where applicable, of the warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered:

the title and issuer of such warrants;

the aggregate number of such warrants;

the price or prices at which such warrants will be issued;

the currencies in which the price or prices of such warrants may be payable;

the designation, amount and terms of the securities purchasable upon exercise of such warrants;

the designation and terms of the other securities with which such warrants are issued and the number of such warrants issued with each such security;

if applicable, the date on and after which such warrants and the securities purchasable upon exercise of such warrants will be separately transferable;

the price or prices at which and currency or currencies in which the securities purchasable upon exercise of such warrants may be purchased;

the date on which the right to exercise such warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

the minimum or maximum amount of such warrants which may be exercised at any one time;

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;

a discussion of material federal income tax considerations; and

any other material terms of such warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of such warrants.

Restrictions on Ownership

Edgar Filing: American Homes 4 Rent - Form S-3ASR

Holders of warrants will be subject to the ownership restrictions set forth in the declaration of trust. See "Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer."

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF RIGHTS

We may issue rights to our shareholders for the purchase of common shares. Each series of rights will be issued under a separate rights agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as rights agent, all as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular issue of rights. The rights agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the certificates relating to the rights of such series and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of rights certificates or beneficial owners of rights. The rights agreement and the rights certificates relating to each series of rights will be filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the rights to be issued, including the following, where applicable:

the da