TECHNICAL OLYMPIC USA INC Form 10-K February 10, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K

FOR ANNUAL AND TRANSITION REPORTS

PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

(Mark One) þ

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003

or

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

For the transition period from to

Commission file number: 000-23677

Technical Olympic USA, Inc.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

4000 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 500 North Hollywood, Florida (Address of Principal Executive Offices) **76-0460831** (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

> **33021** (Zip Code)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code:

(954)364-4000

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

None

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

Common Stock, \$.01 par value

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Exchange Act Rule 12b-2). Yes o No b

The aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant was approximately \$60.5 million as of June 30, 2003.

As of February 6, 2004, there were 29,889,036 shares of the Registrant s common stock outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the Registrant s definitive proxy statement for its 2004 annual meeting of shareholders, which proxy statement will be filed no later than 120 days after the close of the Registrant s fiscal year ended December 31, 2003, are hereby incorporated by reference in Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

PART I

Item 1. Business

We design, build and market high quality detached single-family residences, town homes, and condominiums. We operate in markets characterized by strong population and income growth. Currently we conduct homebuilding operations in 14 metropolitan markets, located in four major geographic regions: Florida, the Mid-Atlantic, Texas and the West.

For the year ended December 31, 2003, we delivered 6,135 homes, with an average sales price of \$262,000 and generated approximately \$1.6 billion in revenues from home sales and \$82.7 million in income from continuing operations. Our backlog of homes at December 31, 2003 was 3,128 homes under contract, representing \$855.4 million in expected revenues.

We market our homes to a diverse group of homebuyers, including first-time homebuyers, move-up homebuyers, homebuyers who are relocating to a new city or state, buyers of second or vacation homes, active-adult homebuyers and homebuyers with grown children who want a smaller home (empty-nesters). Our homes are marketed under various brand names, including Engle Homes, Newmark Homes, Fedrick, Harris Estate Homes, Marksman Homes, D.S. Ware Homes, Masonry Homes, Trophy Homes and James Company. As of December 31, 2003, we either owned or had options to acquire approximately 48,200 homesites, and we were actively marketing in 217 communities.

As part of our objective to provide homebuyers a seamless home purchasing experience, we have developed, and are expanding, our complementary financial services business. As part of this business, we provide mortgage financing and closing services and offer title, homeowners and other insurance products. Our mortgage financing operation s revenues consist primarily of origination and premium fee income, interest income and the gain on the sale of the mortgages, as we sell substantially all of our mortgages and the related servicing rights to third-party investors. Our mortgage financing services are used primarily by buyers of our homes, although we also offer these services to existing homeowners refinancing their mortgages. By comparison, our closing services and our insurance agency operations are used by our homebuyers as well as a broad range of other clients purchasing or refinancing residential or commercial real estate.

Business Strategies

Capitalize on Growth Potential in Our Current Markets

We believe that a significant portion of our future growth will stem from our ability to increase our homes sales and capture additional market share within our current markets. Currently, we conduct homebuilding operations in 14 metropolitan markets, each of which is highly fragmented with numerous smaller homebuilders. Our reputation as a high quality homebuilder combined with our financial resources gives us an advantage over many smaller homebuilders with whom we compete. Based on management estimates, we are positioned as a top-five homebuilder in three of our current markets. Consequently, we have an opportunity to significantly strengthen our market position by expanding our product offerings and increasing the number of our active selling communities. Our current markets have demonstrated solid income and population growth trends. As a result, we expect that strong demand for new housing in our current markets will also contribute to our growth. By leveraging our current operations, we believe that we will, over time, maximize our financial returns, strengthen our margins and increase our revenues and profitability.

Implement Performance Improvement and Best Practices Initiatives

As part of our goal of strengthening our financial returns, we continuously monitor and evaluate our systems, practices and procedures in order to improve our operations. To assist with the measurements of our results and the results of our operating divisions, we utilize a detailed Performance Improvement Plan that focuses on techniques to enhance operating efficiencies. We have, and will continue to,

implement best practices across our operating divisions and believe that this operating strategy has allowed, and will continue to allow, us to:

implement innovative information systems to, among other things, monitor homebuilding production, scheduling and budgeting and facilitate communication among our divisions with respect to the design and construction of our homes;

reduce the time necessary to complete each stage in the homebuilding process;

effectively manage our inventory of homes;

use our purchasing power to achieve volume discounts and the best possible service from our vendors; and

achieve more favorable pricing of homesite premiums and options.

Grow Our Financial Services Business

Our financial services operations require minimal capital investment and are highly profitable because of the high margins we obtain from our mortgage financing operation and the high volume of transactions generated from our title insurance and closing services operations. We believe that these financial services complement our homebuilding operations and provide homebuyers a seamless home purchasing experience. For the year ended December 31, 2003, approximately 8% of our homebuyers paid in cash and 59% of our non-cash homebuyers used the services of our mortgage business, while 82% of our homebuyers used our title and closing services and 19% used our insurance agencies to obtain insurance. We believe that we have an opportunity to grow our financial services business by:

increasing the percentage of our homebuyers who use our financial services;

marketing our financial services more actively to buyers of homes built by other homebuilders, including smaller homebuilders that do not provide their own financial services; and

offering additional services that complement our existing financial services in all our markets.

Selectively Expand Into New Markets

We intend to supplement our primary growth strategy of expansion in our current markets with a disciplined, financial return oriented approach to entering new markets. We will focus on entering metropolitan areas that have favorable homebuilding characteristics, including availability of strong management with local market expertise as well as solid income and population growth trends, significant single-family home permit activity, a diversified economy and an adequate supply of obtainable homesites. We believe this long-term emphasis on geographic diversification across a range of growing markets with strong fundamentals will enable us to minimize our exposure to adverse economic conditions, seasonality and housing cycles in individual local markets. We will enter new markets through strategic acquisitions of other homebuilders and, to the extent we enter new markets that complement and/or are in close proximity to our current markets, we will utilize our existing management expertise and resources to establish operations.

Homebuilding Operations

Markets

We operate in 14 metropolitan markets located in four major geographic regions: Florida; the Mid-Atlantic; Texas; and the West.

Florida	Mid-Atlantic	Texas	West
Jacksonville	Baltimore/Southern Pennsylvania	Austin	Colorado
Orlando	Nashville	Dallas/Ft. Worth	Las Vegas
Southeast Florida	Northern Virginia	Houston	Phoenix
Southwest Florida		San Antonio	

For the year ended December 31, 2003, none of our metropolitan markets represented more than 15% of our total revenues. We select our target geographic markets based on, among other things, historical and projected population growth, projected job growth, regional economic conditions, availability of strong management with local expertise, land availability, single-family home permit activity and price, the local land development process, consumer tastes, competition, housing inventory and secondary home sales activity.

Florida. Our Florida region is comprised of four metropolitan markets: Jacksonville; Orlando; Southeast Florida, which is comprised of Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, Port St. Lucie and Indian River Counties; and Southwest Florida, which is comprised of Fort Myers and Naples. We conduct business in our Orlando, Southeast Florida and Southwest Florida markets under the Engle Homes brand name. We entered the Jacksonville market in October 2002 through the acquisition of D.S. Ware Homes. We have continued to conduct business in Jacksonville under the D.S. Ware Homes brand name but intend to soon begin conducting business in that division under the Engle Homes brand name instead. For the year ended December 31, 2003, we delivered 2,311 homes in Florida, generating \$562.5 million, or 35% of our revenues from home sales.

Mid-Atlantic. Our Mid-Atlantic region is comprised of three metropolitan markets: Baltimore, Maryland/Southern Pennsylvania; Nashville, Tennessee; and Northern Virginia. We entered the Baltimore market in November 2002 through the acquisition of Masonry Homes and continue to conduct business in this market under the Masonry Homes brand name. We conduct business in Nashville under the Newmark Homes and Fedrick, Harris Estate Homes brand names. We conduct business in Northern Virginia under the Engle Homes brand name. For the year ended December 31, 2003, we delivered 636 homes in our Mid-Atlantic region generating \$209.3 million, or 13% of our revenues from home sales.

Texas. Our Texas region is comprised of four metropolitan markets: Austin; Dallas/Ft. Worth; Houston; and San Antonio. We conduct business in all of our markets in Texas under the Newmark Homes brand name. We also conduct business under the Engle Homes brand name in the Dallas/Fort Worth market and under the Fedrick, Harris Estate Homes brand name in Austin, Dallas and Houston. We build in both mini-master and master plan communities in Texas. In addition, to meet varying local demand in each of our Texas markets, a considerable number of our homes in the Texas market are built as speculative homes, which means we build the homes prior to having sold them. The number of speculative homes we build in any given community or market is influenced by local market factors, such as new employment opportunities, significant job relocations, housing demand, local market customs and the length of time we have operated in the market. For the year ended December 31, 2003, we delivered 1,557 homes in Texas, generating \$407.4 million, or 25% of our revenues from home sales.

West. Our West region is comprised of three metropolitan markets: the Colorado Front Range, which is comprised of Denver, Boulder and Colorado Springs; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Phoenix, Arizona. In our Colorado market we conduct business under the Engle Homes brand name. During 2003 we expanded our operations in Colorado through the acquisition of The James Construction Company, and we have continued to conduct business in the greater Denver area under The James Company brand name. Also during 2003, we entered the Las Vegas market through the acquisition of Trophy Homes. We continue to conduct business in Las Vegas under the Trophy Homes brand name. In the Phoenix market, we conduct business under the Engle Homes brand name. For the year ended December 31, 2003, we delivered 1,631 homes in our West region generating \$425.1 million, or 27% of our revenues from home sales.

Product Mix

We select our product mix in a particular geographic market based on the demographics of the market, demand for a particular product, margins and the economic strength of the market. We regularly review our product mix in each of our markets so that we can quickly respond to market changes and opportunities.

For the year ended December 31, 2003, we generated 39% of our revenues from home sales from homes in the \$200,000 to \$300,000 price range, 24% of our revenues from homes in the \$300,000 to \$400,000 price range, 19% of our revenues from homes also from homes in the under \$200,000 price range, and 18% of our revenues from home sales from homes in the over \$400,000 price range.

Land and Homesites

Land is a key raw material and one of our most valuable assets. We believe that by acquiring land and homesites in premier locations, we enhance our competitive standing and reduce our exposure to economic downturns. We believe that homes in premier locations continue to attract homebuyers in both strong and weak economic conditions. We consider that our disciplined acquisition strategy of balancing homesites and land we own and those we can acquire under option contracts provides us access to a substantial supply of quality homesites and land while conserving our invested capital and optimizing our returns.

Types of Land and Homesites. In our homebuilding operations, we only acquire land or homesites that are entitled. Land is entitled when all requisite residential zoning has been obtained for it. We attempt to acquire entitled land and homesites that also have water and sewage systems, streets and other infrastructure in place (we refer to these properties as developed homesites) because they are ready to have houses built on them. Before we can build a house on an entitled homesite that is not developed, the necessary infrastructure must be put in place. We generally acquire homesites that are located adjacent to or near our other homesites in a community, which enables us to build and market our homes more cost efficiently than if the homesites were scattered throughout the community. Cost efficiencies arise from economies of scale, such as shared marketing expenses and project management.

Land Acquisition Policies. We have adopted strict land acquisition policies and procedures that cover all homesite acquisitions, including homesites acquired through option contracts. These policies and procedures impose strict standards for assessing all proposed land purchases with the goal of minimizing risk and maximizing our financial returns.

Initially, our experienced management teams in each of our divisions conduct extensive analysis on the local market to determine if we want to enter, or expand, our operations in that market. As part of this analysis, we review a variety of factors, including:

historical and projected population and employment rates for the surrounding area;

demographic information such as age, education and economic status of the homebuyers in the area;

suitability for development within two to four years of acquisition;

desirability of location, including proximity to metropolitan area, local traffic corridors and amenities; and

prices of comparable new and resale houses in the area.

We then evaluate and identify specific homesites in desirable locations that are consistent with our strategy for the particular market, including the type of home and anticipated sales price that we wish to offer in the community. In addition, we review:

estimated costs of completed homesite development;

current and anticipated competition in the area, including the type and anticipated sales price of homes offered by our competitors;

opportunity to acquire additional homesites in the future, if desired; and

results of financial analysis, such as projected profit margins and return on invested capital.

In addition, we conduct environmental due diligence, including on-site inspection and soil testing, and confirm that the land has the necessary zoning and other governmental entitlements required to develop and use the property for residential home construction.

Each land acquisition proposal, which contains specific information relating to the market, property and community, is then subject to review and approval by our Management Executive Committee. The Management Executive Committee is comprised of our senior corporate officers and representatives from our Homebuilding operations.

Land Supply. We acquire the land and homesites we require for our homebuilding operations through a combination of purchases and option contracts. Under the option contracts, we purchase the right, but not the obligation, to buy homesites at predetermined prices on a predetermined takedown schedule anticipated to be commensurate with home starts. Homesite option contracts are nonrecourse, thereby limiting our financial exposure to non-refundable deposits, which are typically less than 20% of the underlying purchase price. This enables us to control significant homesite positions with a minimal capital investment and reduces the risks associated with land ownership and development. We believe that our local reputation with land sellers or developers provides us a competitive advantage in acquiring homesites through option contracts. At December 31, 2003, we had approximately 35,800 homesites under option or similar contracts, representing approximately 74% of our total homesite supply, and we had approximately \$78.7 million in deposits under those option contracts.

As of December 31, 2003, we had approximately 48,200 homesites which were either owned or controlled under option contracts in our homesite inventory. This represents supply for approximately four years of operations, based on our current projections for home sales. The table below shows our homesite inventory by region and in total for the periods indicated:

		At December 31,		
	2001	2002	2003	
Florida	4,800	11,300	19,900	
Mid-Atlantic	2,200	4,950	4,900	
Texas	3,900	5,050	8,100	
West	4,100	5,000	15,300	
Total(1)	15,000	26,300	48,200	

(1) Includes approximately 7,600, 16,500, and 35,800 homesites under option contracts as of December 31, 2001, 2002, and 2003, respectively.

As part of our land inventory management strategy, we occasionally exchange or sell a portion of the homesites and land that we have purchased to third-party builders. Our division managers are constantly reviewing the competitive landscape and characteristics of each of our local markets. As we determine that certain types of homes, homes with certain anticipated prices or homes in certain communities are either selling quicker or at better margins, we will exchange or sell our homesites or land for other homesite or land options to capitalize on the market opportunities.

Purchasing

We use our purchasing power to achieve volume discounts and the best possible service from our vendors, thereby reducing costs, ensuring timely deliveries and reducing the risk of supply shortages due to allocations of materials. We have negotiated price arrangements, which we believe are favorable, to purchase lumber, sheetrock, appliances, heating and air conditioning, counter tops, bathroom fixtures, roofing and insulation products, concrete, bricks, floor coverings and other housing equipment and materials. Our purchase contracts are with high quality national and regional suppliers. There are no minimum purchase requirements for these arrangements, with flexibility reserved for each division to make independent purchasing decisions.

Design

To appeal to the tastes and preferences of local communities, we expend considerable effort in developing an appropriate design and marketing concept for each community, including determining the size, style and price range of the homes and, in certain projects, the layout of streets, individual homesites and overall community design. In addition, in certain markets, outside architects who are familiar with the local communities in which we build, assist us in preparing home designs and floor plans. The product line that we offer in a particular community depends upon many factors, including the housing generally available in the area, the needs of the particular market and our costs of homesites in the community. To improve the efficiency of our design process and make full use of our resources and expertise, we maintain a company-wide database of detailed information relating to the design and construction of our homes, including architectural plans previously or currently used in our other communities.

Design Centers

We maintain design centers in most of our markets as part of our marketing process and to assist our homebuyers in selecting options and upgrades which can result in additional revenues. The design centers heighten interest in our homes by allowing homebuyers to participate in the design process and introducing homebuyers to the various flooring, lighting, fixtures and hardware options available to them. In keeping with our regional approach, each region decides what type of design center is suitable for the local area. While the size and content of our design centers vary between markets, the focus of all of our design centers is on making the homebuyer s selection process less complicated and an enjoyable experience, while increasing our profitability.

Construction

Subcontractors perform substantially all of our construction work. Our construction superintendents monitor the construction of each home, coordinate the activities of subcontractors and suppliers, subject the work of subcontractors to quality and cost controls and monitor compliance with zoning and building codes. We typically retain subcontractors pursuant to a contract that obligates the subcontractor to complete construction at a fixed price in a workmanlike manner. In addition, under these contracts the subcontractor generally provides us with standard indemnifications and warranties. Typically, we work with the same subcontractors within each market, which provides us with a stable and reliable work force and better control over the costs and quality of the work performed. Although we compete with other homebuilders for qualified subcontractors, we have established long-standing relationships with many of our subcontractors and have not experienced any material difficulties in obtaining the services of desired subcontractors.

We typically complete the construction of a home within four to five months. Construction time, however, depends on weather, availability of labor, materials, supplies and other factors. We do not maintain significant inventories of construction materials, except for materials related to work in progress for homes under construction. Generally, the construction materials used in our operations are readily available from numerous sources. We have established price arrangements or contracts, which we believe are favorable, with suppliers of certain of our building materials, but we are not under specific purchasing



requirements. In recent years, we have not experienced significant delays in construction due to shortages of materials.

We have, and will continue to establish, and maintain information systems and other practices and procedures that allow us to more effectively manage our subcontractors and the construction process. For example, we have implemented information systems that monitor homebuilding production, scheduling and budgeting. We believe that this program has and will continue to improve our efficiency and decrease our construction time.

Marketing and Sales

We market our homes under various brand names, including Engle Homes, Newmark Homes, Fedrick, Harris Estate Homes, Marksman Homes, D.S. Ware Homes, Masonry Homes, Trophy Homes and James Company. We believe our brands are widely recognized in the markets in which we operate for providing quality homes in desirable locations and enjoy a solid reputation among potential homebuyers.

We build and market different types of homes to meet the needs of different homebuyers and the needs of different markets. We employ a variety of marketing techniques to attract potential homebuyers through numerous avenues, including Internet web sites for our various homebuilding brands and subsidiaries, advertising and other marketing programs. We advertise on television, in newspapers and other publications, through our own brochures and newsletters, on billboards and in brochures and newsletters produced and distributed by real estate and mortgage brokers. Some of our suppliers participate in our advertising and promotional materials, either through co-branding, cost-sharing or through rebates.

We typically conduct home sales activities from sales offices located in furnished model homes in each community. We use commissioned sales personnel who assist prospective buyers by providing them with floor plans, price information, tours of model homes and information on the available options and other custom features. We provide our sales personnel with extensive training, and we keep them updated as to the availability of financing, construction schedules and marketing and advertising plans to facilitate their marketing and sales activities. We supplement our in-house training program with training by outside sales and marketing consultants.

We market and sell homes through our own commissioned sales personnel and in cooperation with independent real estate brokers. Because approximately 57% of our sales (based on homes delivered) originate from independent real estate brokers, we sponsor a variety of programs and events, including breakfasts, contests and other events to provide the brokers with a level of familiarity with our communities, homes and financing options necessary to successfully market our homes. We also offer other incentives to brokers to actively market our homes.

Sales of our homes generally are made pursuant to a standard sales contract that is tailored to the requirements of each jurisdiction. Generally, our sales contracts require a deposit of a fixed amount (typically up to \$5,000) on our less expensive homes or as a percentage of the sales price (typically 5% to 10%) on our more expensive homes. The contract includes a financing contingency which permits the customer to cancel in the event mortgage financing at prevailing interest rates cannot be obtained within a specified period, typically 30 days from the signing. The contract may include other contingencies, such as the prior sale of a buyer s existing home. We estimate that the average period between the execution of a sales contract for a home and closing is approximately four to six months for presold homes.

Customer Service and Quality Control

Our operating divisions are responsible for both pre-delivery quality control inspections and responding to customers post-delivery needs. We believe that the prompt, courteous response to homebuyers needs reduces post-delivery repair costs, enhances our reputation for quality and service and ultimately leads to significant repeat and referral business. We conduct home orientations and pre-delivery inspections and interviews with homebuyers immediately before closing. In conjunction with these inspections, we create a list of unfinished construction items and address outstanding issues promptly.

An integral part of our customer service program includes post-delivery interviews. In most of our markets we contract independent third parties to conduct periodic post-delivery evaluations of the customer s satisfaction with their home, as well as the customer s experience with our sales personnel, construction department and title and mortgage services. Typically, approximately one year after we sell a home we arrange for follow-up interviews with the homeowner to determine the level of the homeowner s continued satisfaction. These interviews provide us with a direct link to the customer s perception of the entire buying experience as well as valuable feedback on the quality of the homes we deliver and the services we provide.

Warranty Program

For all homes we build, we provide our homebuyers with a one-year or two-year limited warranty of workmanship and materials, and an eight-year or ten-year limited warranty covering major structural defects. The extent of these warranties may differ in some or all of the states in which we operate. We currently have a homebuilder protective policy which covers warranty claims for structure and design defects related to homes sold by us during the policy period, subject to a significant self-insured retention per occurrence. We have, and are continuing to implement, a warranty administration program in conjunction with our homebuilder protective policy insurance carrier that we believe will allow us to more effectively manage and resolve our warranty claims. We subcontract homebuilding work to subcontractors who generally provide us with an indemnity and a certificate of insurance before receiving payments for their work and, therefore, claims relating to workmanship and materials are the primary responsibility of our subcontractors. However, there is no assurance that we will be able to enforce these contractual indemnities. After we deliver a home, we process all warranty requests through our customer service departments located in each of our markets. In most instances, a customer service manager inspects the warranty request within 48 hours of receipt. If a warranty repair is necessary, we manage and supervise the repair to ensure that the appropriate subcontractor takes prompt and appropriate corrective action. Additionally, we have developed a pro-active response and remediation protocol to address any warranty claim that may result in mold damage. We generally have not had any material litigation or claims regarding warranties or latent defects with respect to construction of homes. Current claims and litigation are expected to be substantially covered by our reserves or insurance.

Financial Services

As part of our objective to provide homebuyers a seamless home purchasing experience, we have developed, and are expanding, our complementary financial services business. As part of this business, we provide mortgage financing and closing services and offer title, homeowners and other insurance products. Our mortgage financing operation derives most of its revenues from buyers of our homes, although it also offers its services to existing homeowners refinancing their mortgages. By comparison, our closing services and our insurance agency operations, are used by our homebuyers as well as a broad range of other clients purchasing or refinancing residential or commercial real estate.

Our mortgage business consists of providing our homebuyers and third party homebuyers with loan origination services, purchase financing and, to a lesser extent, mortgage refinancing. We are an approved seller/servicer of Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal Housing Administration, Veteran s Association and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development loans. We sell substantially all of our loans and the related servicing rights to third-party investors. We conduct this business through our subsidiary, Preferred Home Mortgage Company. Preferred Home has its headquarters in Boca Raton, Florida and has offices in each of our markets.

For the year ended December 31, 2003, approximately 8% of our homebuyers paid in cash and 59% of our non-cash homebuyers utilized the services of our mortgage business. We believe we have an opportunity to expand this business, particularly in our recently-acquired markets. We originated approximately \$1.2 billion aggregate principal amount of mortgage loans for the year ended December 31, 2003. After excluding revenues and expenses from intercompany transactions, our mortgage business generated pretax income of \$14.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2003.



Through our title services business, we, as agent, obtain competitively-priced title insurance for, and provide closing services to, our homebuyers as well as third party homebuyers. We conduct this business through our subsidiary, Universal Land Title, Inc. and its subsidiaries. Universal operates as a traditional title agency with its headquarters in West Palm Beach, Florida and has 22 additional offices.

Universal Land Title works with national underwriters and lenders to facilitate client service and coordinate closing at its offices. It is equipped to handle e-commerce applications, e-mail closing packages, digital document delivery and web-based closings. The principal sources of revenues generated by our title insurance business are fees paid to Universal Land Title for title insurance obtained for our homebuyers and other third party residential purchasers.

For the year ended December 31, 2003, approximately 82% of our homebuyers used Universal Land Title or its affiliates for their title insurance agency and closing services. We continue to expand our title services business to markets not currently served by Universal Land Title. After excluding revenues and expenses from intercompany transactions, our title services business generated pre-tax income of \$1.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. Third party homebuyers (or non-company customers) accounted for 89% of our title services business revenue for the year ended December 31, 2003.

Alliance Insurance and Information Services, LLC, owned by Universal Land Title, is a full service insurance agency serving all of our markets. Alliance markets homeowners , flood and auto insurance directly to homebuyers and others in all of our markets and also markets life insurance in Florida. Interested homebuyers obtain free quotes and have the necessary paperwork delivered directly to the closing table for added convenience. For the year ended December 31, 2003, 19% of our homebuyers used Alliance for their insurance needs.

Governmental Regulation

We must comply with state and local laws and regulations relating to, among other things, zoning, treatment of waste, land development, required construction materials, density requirements, building design and elevation of homes, in connection with the construction of our homes. These include laws requiring use of construction materials that reduce the need for energy-consuming heating and cooling systems. In addition, we and our subcontractors are subject to laws and regulations relating to employee health and safety. These laws and regulations are subject to frequent change and often increase construction costs. In some cases, there are laws that require that commitments to provide roads and other infrastructure be in place prior to the commencement of new construction. These laws and regulations are usually administered by individual counties and municipalities and may result in fees and assessments or building moratoriums. In addition, certain new development projects are subject to assessments for schools, parks, streets and highways and other public improvements, the costs of which can be substantial.

The residential homebuilding industry also is subject to a variety of local, state and federal statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations concerning the protection of health and the environment. Environmental laws and conditions may result in delays, may cause us to incur substantial compliance and other costs and can prohibit or severely restrict homebuilding activity in environmentally sensitive regions or areas. In recent years, several cities and counties in which we have developments have submitted to voters slow growth or no growth initiatives and other ballot measures which could impact the affordability and availability of homes and land within those localities.

In order to make it possible for purchasers of some of our homes to obtain FHA-insured or VA-guaranteed mortgages, we must construct those homes in compliance with regulations promulgated by those agencies.

Our title insurance agency subsidiaries must comply with applicable insurance laws and regulations. Our mortgage financing subsidiaries must comply with applicable real estate lending laws and regulations. The mortgage financing and title insurance subsidiaries are licensed in the states in which they do business and must comply with laws and regulations in those states regarding mortgage financing and title insurance

companies. These laws and regulations include provisions regarding capitalization, operating procedures, investments, forms of policies and premiums.

Competition and Market Forces

The development and sale of residential properties is a highly competitive business. We compete in each of our markets with numerous national, regional and local builders on the basis of a number of interrelated factors including location, price, reputation, amenities, design, quality and financing. Builders of new homes compete for homebuyers, as well as for desirable properties, raw materials and reliable, skilled subcontractors. We also compete with resales of existing homes, available rental housing and, to a lesser extent, resales of condominiums. We believe we generally compare favorably to other builders in the markets in which we operate, due primarily to:

our experience within our geographic markets;

the ability of our local managers to identify and quickly respond to local market conditions; and

our reputation for service and quality.

The housing industry is cyclical and is affected by consumer confidence levels and prevailing economic conditions, including interest rate levels. A variety of other factors affect the housing industry and demand for new homes, including the availability of labor and materials and increases in the costs thereof, changes in costs associated with home ownership such as increases in property taxes, energy costs, changes in consumer preferences, demographic trends and the availability of and changes in mortgage financing programs.

We compete with other mortgage lenders, including national, regional and local mortgage bankers, savings and loan associations and other financial institutions, in the origination, sale and servicing of mortgage loans. Principal competitive factors include interest rates and other features of mortgage loan products available to the consumer. We compete with other insurance agencies, including national, regional and local insurance agencies, in the sale of title insurance, homeowner insurance and related insurance services. Principal competitive factors include cost and other features of insurance products available to the consumer.

Seasonality

The homebuilding industry tends to be seasonal, as generally there are more homes sold in the spring and summer months when the weather is milder, although the rate of sales contracts for new homes is highly dependent on the number of active communities and the timing of new community openings. We operate primarily in the Southwest and Southeast, where weather conditions are more suitable to a year-round construction process than in other parts of the country. Because new home deliveries trail new home contracts by several months, we typically have the greatest percentage of home deliveries in the fall.

Backlog

As of December 31, 2003, we had 3,128 homes in backlog representing \$855.4 million in revenue, as compared to 2,280 homes in backlog representing \$636.9 million in revenue as of December 31, 2002. Backlog represents home purchase contracts that have been executed and for which earnest money deposits have been received, but for which the sale has not yet closed. We do not record home sales as revenues until the closings occur. Historically, substantially all of the homes in our backlog at any given point in time have been closed in the following 12-month period. Although cancellations can disrupt anticipated home closings, we believe that cancellations have not had a material negative impact on our operations or liquidity during the last several years. We attempt to reduce the cancellations by reviewing each homebuyer s ability to obtain mortgage financing early in the sales process and by closely monitoring the mortgage approval process.

Employees

At December 31, 2003, we employed 1,701 people. None of our employees are covered by collective bargaining agreements. We believe our relations with our employees are good.

RISK FACTORS

Risks Related to Our Business

Economic downturns in the geographic areas in which we operate could adversely affect demand and prices for new homes in those areas and could have an adverse effect on our revenues and earnings.

Although we operate in 14 major metropolitan markets, our operations are concentrated in the southwestern and southeastern United States. Adverse economic or other business conditions in these regions or in the particular markets in which we operate, all of which are outside of our control, could have an adverse effect on our revenues and earnings.

We may not be able to acquire suitable land at reasonable prices, which could increase our costs and reduce our earnings and profit margins.

We have experienced an increase in competition for available land and developed homesites in some of our markets as a result of the strength of the economy in many of these markets over the past few years and the availability of more capital to major homebuilders. Our ability to continue our development activities over the long-term depends upon our ability to locate and acquire suitable parcels of land or developed homesites to support our homebuilding operations. As competition for land increases, the cost of acquiring it may rise, and the availability of suitable parcels at acceptable prices may decline. If we are unable to acquire suitable land or developed homesites at reasonable prices, it could limit our ability to develop new projects or result in increased land costs that we may not be able to pass through to our customers. Consequently, it could reduce our earnings and profit margins.

Our significant level of debt could adversely affect our financial condition and prevent us from fulfilling our debt service obligations.

We currently have a significant amount of debt, and our ability to meet our debt service obligations will depend on our future performance. Numerous factors outside of our control, including changes in economic or other business conditions generally or in the markets or industry in which we do business, may adversely affect our operating results and cash flows, which in turn may affect our ability to meet our debt service obligations. As of December 31, 2003, on a consolidated basis, we had approximately \$561.2 million aggregate principal amount of debt outstanding (including our revolving credit facility, our senior notes, our senior subordinated notes, our warehouse line of credit and our other credit facilities, but excluding consolidated land bank obligations of \$242.7 million). As of December 31, 2003, we would have had the ability to borrow an additional \$212.2 million under our revolving credit facility and \$26.8 million under our warehouse line of credit, subject to our satisfying the relevant borrowing conditions in those facilities. In addition, subject to restrictions in our financing documents, we may incur additional debt.

If we are unable to meet our debt service obligations, we may need to restructure or refinance our debt, seek additional equity financing or sell assets. We may be unable to restructure or refinance our debt, obtain additional equity financing or sell assets on satisfactory terms or at all.

Our debt instruments impose significant operating and financial restrictions which may limit our ability to refinance future operations or capital needs and pursue business opportunities, thereby limiting our growth.

The indentures governing our outstanding notes and our revolving credit facility impose significant operating and financial restrictions on us. These restrictions limit our ability to, among other things:

incur additional debt;

pay dividends or make other restricted payments;

create or permit certain liens, other than customary and ordinary liens;

sell assets other than in the ordinary course of our business;

create or permit restrictions on the ability of our restricted subsidiaries to pay dividends or make other distributions to us;

engage in transactions with affiliates; and

consolidate or merge with or into other companies or sell all or substantially all of our assets.

These restrictions could limit our ability to finance our future operations or capital needs, make acquisitions or pursue available business opportunities. In addition, our revolving credit facility requires us to maintain specified financial ratios and satisfy certain financial covenants, the indentures governing our outstanding notes require us to maintain a specified minimum consolidated net worth, and our warehouse line of credit requires us to maintain the collateral value of our borrowing base. We may be required to take action to reduce our debt or to act in a manner contrary to our business objectives to meet these ratios and satisfy these covenants. A breach of any of the covenants in, or our inability to maintain the required financial ratios under, our revolving credit facility and warehouse line of credit would prevent us from borrowing additional money under those facilities and could result in a default under those facilities and our other debt obligations. Our failure to maintain the specified minimum consolidated net worth under the indentures will require us to offer to purchase a portion of our outstanding notes. If we fail to purchase these notes, it would result in a default under the indentures and may result in a default under other debt facilities.

We may not be successful in our effort to identify, complete or integrate acquisitions, which could adversely affect our results of operations and future growth.

A principal component of our strategy is to continue to grow profitably in a controlled manner, including, where appropriate, by acquiring other property developers or homebuilders. We may not be successful in implementing our acquisition strategy, and growth may not continue at historical levels or at all. The failure to identify or complete business acquisitions, or successfully integrate the businesses we acquire, could adversely affect our results of operations and future growth. Specifically, any delays or difficulties in converting our various information systems or implementing our internal policies and procedures could increase costs and otherwise affect our results of operations. Even if we overcome these challenges and risks, we may not realize the expected benefits of our acquisitions, if any.

We may need additional financing to fund our operations or for the expansion of our business, and if we are unable to obtain sufficient financing or such financing is obtained on adverse terms, we may not be able to operate or expand our business as planned, which could adversely affect our results of operations and future growth.

Our operations require significant amounts of cash. If our business does not achieve the levels of profitability or generate the amount of cash that we anticipate or if we expand through acquisitions or organic growth faster than anticipated, we may need to seek additional debt or equity financing to operate and expand our business. If we are unable to obtain sufficient financing to fund our operations or expansion, it could adversely affect our results of operations and future growth. We may be unable to obtain additional financing on satisfactory terms or at all. If we raise additional funds through the incurrence of debt, we will incur increased debt service costs and may become subject to additional restrictive financial and other covenants.

In the event that tax liabilities arise in connection with the restructuring, there can be no assurance that we will not be liable for such amounts.

Prior to a restructuring transaction which occurred in October 2003, Technical Olympic, Inc., which we refer to as Technical Olympic, was the parent of our consolidated tax reporting group, and we were jointly and severally liable for any U.S. federal income tax owed by Technical Olympic or any other member of the consolidated group. As part of the restructuring, Technical Olympic was merged into TOI, LLC, a newly-formed limited liability company of which we are the sole member, and we became the parent of our consolidated tax reporting group. Also, as part of the restructuring, Technical Olympic

Services, Inc., which we refer to as TOSI, a newly-formed corporation wholly-owned by Technical Olympic S.A., assumed all liabilities of Technical Olympic. We do not believe that any material tax liabilities will arise by reason of the restructuring. However, there can be no assurance that material tax liabilities will not arise in connection with the restructuring, that we will not be held liable for such amounts or that we will be able to collect from TOSI any amounts for which they may have assumed liability. The assessment of material tax liabilities in connection with the restructuring could have an adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Technical Olympic S.A., our majority stockholder, can cause us to take certain actions or preclude us from taking actions without the approval of the other stockholders and may have interests that could conflict with your interests.

Technical Olympic S.A. currently owns 73.95% of the voting power of our common stock. As a result, Technical Olympic S.A. has the ability to control the outcome of virtually all corporate actions requiring stockholder approval, including the election of a majority of our directors, the approval of any merger and other significant corporate actions. Technical Olympic S.A. may authorize actions or have interests that could conflict with those of our other shareholders.

Risks Related to Our Industry

Changes in economic or other business conditions could adversely affect demand and prices for new homes, which could decrease our revenues.

The homebuilding industry historically has been cyclical and is affected significantly by adverse changes in general and local economic conditions, such as:

employment levels;

population growth;

consumer confidence and stability of income levels;

availability of financing for land and homesite acquisitions, construction and permanent mortgages;

interest rates;

inventory levels of both new and existing homes;

supply of rental properties; and

conditions in the housing resale market.

Adverse changes in one or more of these conditions, all of which are outside of our control, could reduce demand and/or prices for new homes in some or all of the markets in which we operate. A decline in demand or the prices we can obtain for our homes could decrease our revenues.

We are subject to substantial risks with respect to the land and home inventories we maintain, and fluctuations in market conditions may affect our ability to sell our land and home inventories at expected prices, if at all, which would reduce our profit margins.

As a homebuilder, we must constantly locate and acquire new tracts of land for development and developed homesites to support our homebuilding operations. There is a lag between the time we acquire land for development or developed homesites and the time that we can bring the communities to market and sell homes. Lag time varies on a project-by-project basis; however, historically, we have experienced a lag time of approximately 9 to 12 months. As a result, we face the risk that demand for housing may decline during this period and that we will not be able to dispose of developed properties or undeveloped land or homesites acquired for development at expected prices or within anticipated time frames or at all. The market value of home inventories, undeveloped land and developed homesites can fluctuate significantly because of changing market conditions. In addition, inventory carrying costs (including

interest on funds used to acquire land or build homes) can be significant and can adversely affect our performance. Because of these factors, we may be forced to sell homes or other property at a loss or for prices that generate lower profit margins than we anticipate. We may also be required to make material write-downs of the book value of our real estate assets in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles if values decline.

Supply risks and shortages relating to labor and materials can harm our business by delaying construction and increasing costs. The homebuilding industry from time to time has experienced significant difficulties with respect to:

shortages of qualified trades people and other labor;

inadequately capitalized local subcontractors;

shortages of materials; and

volatile increases in the cost of certain materials, including lumber, framing and cement, which are significant components of home construction costs.

These difficulties can, and often do, cause unexpected short-term increases in construction costs and cause construction delays. In addition, to the extent our subcontractors incur increased costs associated with recent increases in insurance premiums and compliance with state and local regulations, these costs are passed on to us as. We are generally unable to pass on any unexpected increases in construction costs to those customers who have already entered into sales contracts, as those contracts generally fix the price of the house at the time the contract is signed, which may be up to one year in advance of the delivery of the home. Furthermore, sustained increases in construction costs may, over time, erode our profit margins. We have historically been able to offset sustained increases in the costs of materials with increases in the prices of our homes and through operating efficiencies. However, in the future, pricing competition may restrict our ability to pass on any additional costs, and we may not be able to achieve sufficient operating efficiencies to maintain our current profit margins.

Future increases in interest rates or a decrease in the availability of government-sponsored mortgage financing could prevent potential customers from purchasing our homes, which would adversely affect our revenues and profitability.

Almost all of our customers finance their purchases through mortgage financing obtained from us or other sources. Increases in interest rates or decreases in the availability of Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal Housing Administration or Veteran s Association mortgage financing could cause a decline in the market for new homes as potential homebuyers may not be able to obtain affordable financing. Increased interest rates can also limit our ability to realize our backlog because our sales contracts typically provide our customers with a financing contingency. Financing contingencies allow customers to cancel their home purchase contracts in the event they cannot arrange for financing at interest rates that were prevailing when they signed their contracts. In particular, because the availability of mortgage financing is an important factor in marketing many of our homes, any limitations or restrictions on the availability of those types of financing could reduce our home sales and the lending volume at our mortgage subsidiary. Even if our potential customers do not need financing, changes in interest rates currently are at one of their lowest levels in decades, and any future increases in interest rates could adversely affect our revenues and profitability.

The competitive conditions in the homebuilding industry could increase our costs, reduce our revenues, and otherwise adversely affect our results of operations.

The homebuilding industry is highly competitive and fragmented. We compete in each of our markets with numerous national, regional and local builders. Some of these builders have greater financial

resources, more experience, more established market positions and better opportunities for land and homesite acquisitions than we do and have lower costs of capital, labor and material than us. Builders of new homes compete for homebuyers, as well as for desirable properties, raw materials and skilled subcontractors. The competitive conditions in the homebuilding industry could, among other things:

increase our costs and reduce our revenues;

make it difficult for us to acquire suitable land or homesites at acceptable prices;

require us to increase selling commissions and other incentives;

result in delays in construction if we experience a delay in procuring materials or hiring laborers; and

result in lower sales volumes.

We also compete with resales of existing homes, available rental housing and, to a lesser extent, condominium resales. An oversupply of attractively priced resale or rental homes in the markets in which we operate could adversely affect our ability to sell homes profitably.

Our financial services operations are also subject to competition from third-party providers, many of which are substantially larger, may have a lower cost of funds or overhead than we do, and may focus exclusively on providing such services.

We are subject to product liability and warranty claims arising in the ordinary course of business that could adversely affect our results of operations.

As a homebuilder, we are subject in the ordinary course of our business to product liability and home warranty claims. We provide our homebuyers with a one-year or two-year limited warranty covering workmanship and materials and an eight-year or ten-year limited warranty covering major structural defects. Claims arising under these warranties and general product liability claims are common in the homebuilding industry and can be costly. Although we maintain product liability insurance, the coverage offered by, and availability of, product liability insurance for construction defects is currently limited and, where coverage is available, it may be costly. We currently have a homebuilder protective policy which covers warranty claims for structure and design defects related to homes sold by us during the policy period, subject to a significant self-insured retention per occurrence. However, our product liability insurance and homebuilder protective policies contain limitations with respect to coverage, and there can be no assurance that these insurance rights will be adequate to cover all product liability and warranty claims for which we may be liable or that coverage will not be further restricted and become more costly. In addition, although we generally seek to require our subcontractors and design professionals to indemnify us for liabilities arising from their work, we may be unable to enforce any such contractual indemnities. Uninsured and unindemnified product liability and warranty claims, as well as the cost of product liability insurance and our homebuilder protective policy, could adversely affect our results of operations.

We are subject to mold litigation and claims arising in the ordinary course of business that could adversely affect our results of operations.

Recently, lawsuits have been filed against homebuilders and insurers asserting claims of property damages and personal injury caused by the presence of mold in residential dwellings. Some of these lawsuits have resulted in substantial monetary judgments or settlements. It is possible that insurance carriers may exclude coverage for claims arising from the presence of mold. Uninsured mold liability and claims could adversely affect our results of operations.

States, cities and counties in which we operate have, or may adopt, slow or no growth initiatives which would reduce our ability to build in these areas and could adversely affect our future revenues.

Several states, cities and counties in which we operate have approved, and others in which we operate may approve, various slow growth or no growth initiatives and other ballot measures that could

negatively impact the availability of land and building opportunities within those localities. Approval of slow or no growth measures would reduce our ability to build and sell homes in the affected markets and create additional costs and administration requirements, which in turn could have an adverse effect on our future revenues.

Our business is subject to governmental regulations that may delay, increase the cost of, prohibit or severely restrict our development and homebuilding projects.

We are subject to extensive and complex laws and regulations that affect the land development and homebuilding process, including laws and regulations related to zoning, permitted land uses, levels of density, building design, elevation of properties, water and waste disposal and use of open spaces. In addition, we and our subcontractors are subject to laws and regulations relating to workers health and safety. We also are subject to a variety of local, state and federal laws and regulations concerning the protection of health and the environment. In some of the markets in which we operate, we are required to pay environmental impact fees, use energy saving construction materials and give commitments to provide certain infrastructure such as roads and sewage systems. We must also obtain permits and approvals from local authorities to complete residential development or home construction. The laws and regulations under which we and our subcontractors operate, and our and their obligations to comply with them, may result in delays in construction and development, cause us to incur substantial compliance and other increased costs, and prohibit or severely restrict development and homebuilding activity in certain areas in which we operate.

Our financial services operations are subject to numerous federal, state and local laws and regulations. Failure to comply with these requirements can lead to administrative enforcement actions, the loss of required licenses and claims for monetary damages.

Our business revenues and profitability may be adversely affected by natural disasters or weather conditions.

Homebuilders are particularly subject to natural disasters and severe weather conditions as they can delay our ability to timely complete homes, damage the partially complete or other unsold homes that are in our inventory and/or negatively impact the demand for homes. Our operations are located in many areas that are especially subject to natural disasters. To the extent that hurricanes, severe storms, floods, tornadoes or other natural disasters or similar weather events occur, our business may be adversely affected. To the extent our insurance is not adequate to cover business interruption or losses resulting from these events, our revenues and profitability may be adversely affected.

Item 2. Properties

We lease our executive offices located at 4000 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 500 N, Hollywood, Florida 33021. We own a 19,000 square foot facility in Sugar Land, Texas, which houses our Houston homebuilding operations and a design center, which allows a prospective homebuyer to view samples of some of the products and features we offer in our homes in Houston. We lease substantially all of the office space required for our homebuilding and financial services operations and our corporate offices and believe that our existing facilities are adequate for our current and planned levels of operations. We do not believe that any single leased property is material to our current or planned operations.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

We are involved in various claims and legal actions arising in the ordinary course of business. We do not believe that the ultimate resolution of these matters will have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

None.

PART II

Item 5. Market for Registrant s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

Our common stock began trading on the Nasdaq National Market on March 12, 1998 under the symbol NHCH. Following the merger on June 25, 2002, our common stock began trading under the symbol TOUS. The table below sets forth the high and low sales price for our common stock as reported by the Nasdaq National Market for the periods indicated:

	High	Low
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2002		
First Quarter	\$17.85	\$13.09
Second Quarter	\$18.50	\$13.00
Third Quarter	\$16.99	\$13.00
Fourth Quarter	\$17.00	\$13.10
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2003		
First Quarter	\$17.67	\$13.56
Second Quarter	\$27.27	\$16.70
Third Quarter	\$28.56	\$23.20
Fourth Quarter	\$34.82	\$25.26

As of February 6, 2004, there were approximately 29 record holders of our common stock.

We did not declare or pay any cash dividends on our common stock during the twelve months ended December 31, 2002 or December 31, 2003. The credit agreement relating to our revolving credit facility and the indentures governing our senior notes and senior subordinated notes generally contain covenants that limit the amount of dividends or distributions we can pay on our common stock and the amount of common stock we can repurchase. Currently, under the terms of our revolving credit facility, we may not pay cash dividends in excess of 3% of our consolidated net income.

We currently intend to adopt a formal dividend policy permitting our board of directors to declare, from time to time and upon unanimous consent, cash dividends, subject to the restrictions described above and applicable law.

The following table gives information about our common stock that may be issued upon the exercise of options, warrants, and rights under all existing equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2003.

EQUITY COMPENSATION PLAN INFORMATION

Plan Category	Number of Securities to Be Issued upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities Reflected in Column(a))
	(a)	(b)	(a)
Equity compensation plans			
approved by security holders	3,436,491	\$19.50	563,509
Equity compensation plans(a) not			
approved by security holders	*	*	*
Total	3,436,491	\$19.50	563,509

Item 6. Selected Financial Data

Year Ended December 31,				
1999(1)	2000(2)(3)	2001(2)(3)	2002(2)(3)	2003