

UMH PROPERTIES, INC.
Form 10-K
March 07, 2019

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018

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

For the transition period _____ to _____

Commission File Number 001-12690

UMH Properties, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland 22-1890929
(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer

incorporation or organization) identification number)

3499 Route 9, Suite 3C, Freehold, New Jersey 07728
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (732) 577-9997

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

Common Stock \$.10 par value-New York Stock Exchange

8.0% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock \$.10 par value per share, \$25 liquidation value per share – New York Stock Exchange

6.75% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock \$.10 par value per share, \$25 liquidation value per share – New York Stock Exchange

6.375% Series D Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Stock \$.10 par value per share, \$25 liquidation value per share – New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.
 Yes No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

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 No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes No

Indicate by check 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

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by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K [X].

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company
Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes
No

Based upon the assumption that directors and executive officers of the registrant are not affiliates of the registrant, the aggregate market value of the voting stock of the registrant held by nonaffiliates of the registrant at June 30, 2018 was \$566,368,474. Presuming that such directors and executive officers are affiliates of the registrant, the aggregate market value of the voting stock of the registrant held by nonaffiliates of the registrant at June 30, 2018 was \$521,546,735.

The number of shares outstanding of issuer’s common stock as of February 28, 2019 was 38,778,069 shares.

Documents Incorporated by Reference:

-Part III incorporates certain information by reference from the Registrant’s definitive proxy statement for the 2019 annual meeting of stockholders, which will be filed no later than 120 days after the close of the Registrant’s fiscal year ended December 31, 2018.

-Exhibits incorporated by reference are listed in Part IV; Item 15 (a) (3).

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PART I

Item 1 – Business

General Development of Business

UMH Properties, Inc. (“UMH”), together with its predecessors and consolidated subsidiaries, are referred to herein as “we”, “us”, “our”, or “the Company”, unless the context requires otherwise.

UMH is a self-administered and self-managed qualified real estate investment trust (“REIT”) under Sections 856-860 of the Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”). The Company had elected REIT status effective January 1, 1992 and intends to maintain its qualification as a REIT in the future. As a qualified REIT, with limited exceptions, the Company will not be taxed under Federal and certain state income tax laws at the corporate level on taxable income that it distributes to its shareholders. For special tax provisions applicable to REITs, refer to Sections 856-860 of the Code.

The Company was incorporated in the state of New Jersey in 1968. On September 29, 2003, the Company changed its state of incorporation from New Jersey to Maryland by merging with and into a Maryland corporation.

Narrative Description of Business

The Company’s primary business is the ownership and operation of manufactured home communities – leasing manufactured homesites to private manufactured home owners. The Company also leases homes to residents, and through its wholly-owned taxable REIT subsidiary, UMH Sales and Finance, Inc. (“S&F”), conducts manufactured home sales in its communities.

As of December 31, 2018, the Company owns and operates 118 manufactured home communities containing approximately 21,500 developed homesites. These communities are located in New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan and Maryland.

A manufactured home community is designed to accommodate detached, single-family manufactured homes. These manufactured homes are produced off-site by manufacturers and installed on sites within the communities. These homes may be improved with the addition of features constructed on-site, including garages, screened rooms and carports. Manufactured homes are available in a variety of designs and floor plans, offering many amenities and custom options. Each manufactured home owner leases the site on which the home is located from the Company. The Company owns the underlying land, utility connections, streets, lighting, driveways, common area amenities and other capital improvements and are responsible for enforcement of community guidelines and maintenance.

Manufactured homes are accepted by the public as a viable and economically attractive alternative to common stick-built single-family housing. The affordability of the modern manufactured home makes it a very attractive housing alternative. Depending on the region of the country, construction cost per square foot for a new manufactured home averages anywhere from 10 to 50 percent less than a comparable site-built home, excluding the cost of land. This is due to a number of factors, including volume purchase discounts and inventory control of construction materials and control of all aspects of the construction process, which is generally a more efficient and stream-lined process as compared to a site-built home.

Modern residential land lease communities are similar to typical residential subdivisions containing central entrances, paved well-lit streets, curbs and gutters. Generally, modern manufactured home communities contain buildings for recreation, green areas, and other common area facilities, all of which are the property of the community owner. In addition to such general improvements, certain manufactured home communities include recreational improvements such as swimming pools, tennis courts and playgrounds. Municipal water and sewer services are available in some manufactured home communities, while other communities supply these facilities on-site.

Typically, our leases are on an annual or month-to-month basis, renewable upon the consent of both parties. The community manager interviews prospective residents, collects rent and finance payments, ensures compliance with community regulations, maintains public areas and community facilities and is responsible for the overall appearance of the community. The homeowner is responsible for the maintenance of the home and leased site. As a result, our capital expenditures tend to be less significant relative to multi-family rental apartments. Manufactured home communities produce predictable income streams and provide protection from inflation due to the ability to annually increase rents.

Many of our communities compete with other manufactured home community properties located in the same or nearby markets that are owned and operated by other companies in our business. We generally monitor the rental rates and other terms being offered by our competitors and consider this information as a factor in determining our own rental rates. In addition to competing with other manufactured home community properties, our communities also compete with alternative forms of housing (such as apartments and single-family homes).

In connection with the operation of its communities, UMH also leases homes to prospective tenants. As of December 31, 2018, UMH owned a total of 6,500 rental homes, representing approximately 30% of its developed homesites. These rental homes are owned by the Company and rented to residents. The Company engages in the rental of manufactured homes primarily in areas where the communities have existing vacancies. The rental homes produce income from both the home and the site which might otherwise be non-income producing. The Company sells the rental homes when the opportunity arises.

Inherent in the operation of a manufactured home community is the development, redevelopment, and expansion of our communities. The Company sells and finances the sale of manufactured homes in our communities through S&F. S&F was established to potentially enhance the value of our communities. The home sales business is operated like other homebuilders with sales centers, model homes, an inventory of completed homes and the ability to supply custom designed homes based upon the requirements of the new homeowners.

Investment and Other Policies

The Company may invest in improved and unimproved real property and may develop unimproved real property. Such properties may be located throughout the United States, but the Company has concentrated on the Northeast and Midwest. Since 2010, we have tripled the size of our property portfolio from 28 communities with approximately 6,800 developed homesites to 118 communities with over 21,500 developed homesites. We are focused on acquiring communities with significant upside potential and leveraging our expertise to build long-term capital appreciation.

The Company seeks to finance acquisitions with the most appropriate available source of capital, including purchase money mortgages or other financing, which may be first liens, wraparound mortgages or subordinated indebtedness, sales of investments, and issuance of additional equity securities. In connection with its ongoing activities, the Company may issue notes, mortgages or other senior securities. The Company intends to use both secured and unsecured lines of credit.

The Company may issue securities for property; however, this has not occurred to date. The Company may repurchase or reacquire its shares from time to time if, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, such acquisition is advantageous to the Company. No shares were repurchased or reacquired during 2018 and, as of December 31, 2018, the Company

does not own any of its own shares.

The Company also owns a portfolio of marketable REIT securities, which the Company generally limits to no more than approximately 15% of its undepreciated assets (which is the Company's total assets excluding accumulated depreciation). These liquid real estate holdings provide diversification, additional liquidity and income, and serves as a proxy for real estate when more favorable risk adjusted returns are not available. The Company, from time to time, may purchase these securities on margin when the interest and dividend yields exceed the cost of funds. As of December 31, 2018, the Company had borrowings of \$31,975,086 under its margin line at 2.75% interest. The REIT securities portfolio is subject to risk arising from adverse changes in market rates and prices, primarily interest rate risk and market price risk relating to equity securities. From time to time, the Company may use derivative instruments to mitigate interest rate risk; however, this has not occurred during any periods presented. At December 31, 2018 and 2017, the Company had \$99,595,736 and \$132,964,276, respectively, of marketable securities. Included in these securities are Preferred Stock of \$3,399,558 and \$5,377,522 at December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively. The realized net gain on marketable securities for the year ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 amounted to \$20,107 and \$1,747,528, respectively. The unrealized net gain (loss) on marketable securities at December 31, 2018 and 2017 amounted to \$(40,155,814) and \$11,519,582, respectively.

Regulations, Insurance and Property Maintenance and Improvement

Manufactured home communities are subject to various laws, ordinances and regulations, including regulations relating to recreational facilities such as swimming pools, clubhouses and other common areas, and regulations relating to operating water and wastewater treatment facilities at several of our communities. We believe that each community has all material operating permits and approvals.

Our properties are insured against risks that may cause property damage and business interruption including events such as fire, business interruption, general liability and if applicable, flood. Our insurance policies contain deductible requirements, coverage limits and particular exclusions. It is the policy of the Company to maintain adequate insurance coverage on all of our properties; and, in the opinion of management, all of our properties are adequately insured. We also obtain title insurance insuring fee title to the properties in an aggregate amount which we believe to be adequate.

It is the policy of the Company to properly maintain, modernize, expand and make improvements to its properties when required. The Company anticipates that renovation expenditures with respect to its present properties during 2019 will be approximately \$16 million.

Executive Officers

The following table sets forth information with respect to the executive officers of the Company as of December 31, 2018:

Name	Age	Position
Eugene W. Landy	85	Chairman of the Board of Directors and Founder
Samuel A. Landy	58	President and Chief Executive Officer
Anna T. Chew	60	Vice President, Chief Financial and Accounting Officer and Treasurer
Craig Koster	43	General Counsel and Secretary
Brett Taft	29	Vice President

Number of Employees

As of February 28, 2019, the Company had approximately 380 employees, including Officers. During the year, the Company hires approximately 50 part-time and full-time temporary employees as grounds keepers, lifeguards, and for emergency repairs.

Available Information

Additional information about the Company can be found on the Company's website which is located at www.umh.reit. Information contained on or hyperlinked from our website is not incorporated by reference into and should not be considered part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K or our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). The Company makes available, free of charge, on or through its website, annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the SEC. The SEC maintains an Internet site (<http://www.sec.gov>) that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC.

Item 1A – Risk Factors

Our business faces many risks. The following risk factors may not be the only risks we face but address what we believe may be the material risks concerning our business at this time. If any of the risks discussed in this report were to occur, our business, prospects, financial condition, results of operation and our ability to service our debt and make distributions to our shareholders could be materially and adversely affected and the market price per share of our stock could decline significantly. Some statements in this report, including statements in the following risk factors, constitute forward-looking statements. Please refer to the section entitled “Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.”

Real Estate Industry Risks

General economic conditions and the concentration of our properties in New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan and Maryland may affect our ability to generate sufficient revenue.

The market and economic conditions in our current markets may significantly affect manufactured home occupancy or rental rates. Occupancy and rental rates, in turn, may significantly affect our revenues, and if our communities do not generate revenues sufficient to meet our operating expenses, including debt service and capital expenditures, our cash flow and ability to pay or refinance our debt obligations could be adversely affected. As a result of the geographic concentration of our properties in New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan and Maryland, we are exposed to the risks of downturns in the local economy or other local real estate market conditions which could adversely affect occupancy rates, rental rates, and property values in these markets.

Other factors that may affect general economic conditions or local real estate conditions include:

the national and local economic climate, including that of the energy-market dependent Marcellus and Utica Shale regions, may be adversely impacted by, among other factors, plant closings, and industry slowdowns;

local real estate market conditions such as the oversupply of manufactured homesites or a reduction in demand for manufactured homesites in an area;

the number of repossessed homes in a particular market;

the lack of an established dealer network;

the rental market which may limit the extent to which rents may be increased to meet increased expenses without decreasing occupancy rates;

the safety, convenience and attractiveness of our properties and the neighborhoods where they are located;

zoning or other regulatory restrictions;

competition from other available manufactured home communities and alternative forms of housing (such as apartment buildings and single-family homes);

our ability to provide adequate management, maintenance and insurance;

increased operating costs, including insurance premiums, real estate taxes and utilities; and

the enactment of rent control laws or laws taxing the owners of manufactured homes.

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Our income would also be adversely affected if tenants were unable to pay rent or if sites were unable to be rented on favorable terms. If we were unable to promptly relet or renew the leases for a significant number of sites, or if the rental rates upon such renewal or reletting were significantly lower than expected rates, then our business and results of operations could be adversely affected. In addition, certain expenditures associated with each property (such as real estate taxes and maintenance costs) generally are not reduced when circumstances cause a reduction in income from the property.

We may be unable to compete with our larger competitors for acquisitions, which may increase prices for communities. The real estate business is highly competitive. We compete for manufactured home community investments with numerous other real estate entities, such as individuals, corporations, REITs and other enterprises engaged in real estate activities. In many cases, the competing concerns may be larger and better financed than we are, making it difficult for us to secure new manufactured home community investments. Competition among private and institutional purchasers of manufactured home community investments has resulted in increases in the purchase price paid for manufactured home communities and consequently higher fixed costs. To the extent we are unable to effectively compete in the marketplace, our business may be adversely affected.

We may not be able to integrate or finance our acquisitions and our acquisitions may not perform as expected. We acquire and intend to continue to acquire manufactured home communities on a select basis. Our acquisition activities and their success are subject to risks, including the following:

if we enter into an acquisition agreement for a property, it is usually subject to customary conditions to closing, including completion of due diligence investigations to our satisfaction, which may not be satisfied;

we may be unable to finance acquisitions on favorable terms;

acquired properties may fail to perform as expected;

the actual costs of repositioning or redeveloping acquired properties may be higher than our estimates;

acquired properties may be located in new markets where we face risks associated with a lack of market knowledge or understanding of the local economy, lack of business relationships in the area and unfamiliarity with local governmental and permitting procedures; and

we may be unable to quickly and efficiently integrate new acquisitions, particularly acquisitions of portfolios of properties, into our existing operations.

If any of the above were to occur, our business and results of operations could be adversely affected.

In addition, we may acquire properties subject to liabilities and without any recourse, or with only limited recourse, with respect to unknown liabilities. As a result, if a liability were to be asserted against us based upon ownership of those properties, we might have to pay substantial sums to settle it, which could adversely affect our cash flow.

We may be unable to accurately estimate and anticipate costs and timing associated with expansion activities. We periodically consider expansion of communities. Our expansion activities are subject to risks such as: construction costs exceeding original estimates, construction and lease-up interruptions resulting in increased construction costs, and lower than anticipated occupancy and rental rates causing a property to be unprofitable or less profitable than prior to the expansion.

We may be unable to sell properties when appropriate because real estate investments are illiquid. Real estate investments generally cannot be sold quickly and, therefore, will tend to limit our ability to vary our property portfolio promptly in response to changes in economic or other conditions. In addition, the Code limits our ability to sell our properties. The inability to respond promptly to changes in the performance of our property portfolio could adversely affect our financial condition and ability to service our debt and make distributions to our stockholders.

Our ability to sell manufactured homes may be affected by various factors, which may in turn adversely affect our profitability. S&F operates in the manufactured home market offering homes for sale to tenants and prospective tenants of our communities. The market for the sale of manufactured homes may be adversely affected by the following factors:

downturns in economic conditions which adversely impact the housing market;

an oversupply of, or a reduced demand for, manufactured homes;

the ability of manufactured home manufacturers to adapt to change in the economic climate and the availability of units from these manufacturers;

the difficulty facing potential purchasers in obtaining affordable financing as a result of heightened lending criteria; and

an increase or decrease in the rate of manufactured home repossessions which provide aggressively priced competition to new manufactured home sales.

Any of the above listed factors could adversely impact our rate of manufactured home sales, which would result in a decrease in profitability.

Licensing laws and compliance could affect our profitability. We are subject to the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 (“SAFE Act”), which requires that we obtain appropriate licenses pursuant to the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System & Registry in each state where we conduct business. There are extensive federal and state requirements mandated by the SAFE Act and other laws pertaining to financing, including the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (“Dodd-Frank Act”), and there can be no assurance that we will obtain or renew our SAFE Act licenses, which could result in fees and penalties and have an adverse impact on our ability to continue with our home financing activities.

Costs associated with taxes and regulatory compliance may reduce our revenue. We are subject to significant regulation that inhibits our activities and may increase our costs. Local zoning and use laws, environmental statutes and other governmental requirements may restrict expansion, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. These regulations may prevent us from taking advantage of economic opportunities. Legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act may require us to modify our properties at a substantial cost and noncompliance could result in the imposition of fines or an award of damages to private litigants. Future legislation may impose additional requirements. We cannot predict what requirements may be enacted or amended or what costs we will incur to comply with such requirements. Costs resulting from changes in real estate laws, income taxes, service or other taxes may adversely affect our funds from operations and our ability to pay or refinance our debt. Similarly, changes in laws increasing the potential liability for environmental conditions existing on properties or increasing the restrictions on discharges or other conditions may result in significant unanticipated expenditures, which would adversely affect our business and results of operations.

Laws and regulations also govern the provision of utility services. Such laws regulate, for example, how and to what extent owners or operators of property can charge renters for provision of utilities. Such laws can also regulate the operations and performance of utility systems and may impose fines and penalties on real property owners or operators who fail to comply with these requirements. The laws and regulations may also require capital investment to maintain compliance.

Rent control legislation may harm our ability to increase rents. State and local rent control laws in certain jurisdictions may limit our ability to increase rents and to recover increases in operating expenses and the costs of capital improvements. Currently, rent control affects only two of our manufactured home communities, both of which are in New Jersey, and has resulted in slower growth of earnings from these properties. However, we may purchase additional properties in markets that are either subject to rent control or in which rent-limiting legislation exists or may be enacted.

Environmental liabilities could affect our profitability. Under various federal, state and local laws, ordinances and regulations, an owner or operator of real estate is liable for the costs of removal or remediation of certain hazardous substances at, on, under or in such property, as well as certain other potential costs relating to hazardous or toxic substances. Such laws often impose such liability without regard to whether the owner knew of, or was responsible for, the presence of such hazardous substances. A conveyance of the property, therefore, does not relieve the owner or operator from liability. As a current or former owner and operator of real estate, we may be required by law to investigate and clean up hazardous substances released at or from the properties we currently own or operate or have in the past owned or operated. We may also be liable to the government or to third parties for property damage, investigation costs and cleanup costs. In addition, some environmental laws create a lien on the contaminated site in favor of the government for damages and costs the government incurs in connection with the contamination. Contamination may adversely affect our ability to sell or lease real estate or to borrow using the real estate as collateral. Persons who arrange for the disposal or treatment of hazardous substances also may be liable for the costs of removal or remediation of such substances at a disposal or treatment facility owned or operated by another person. In addition, certain environmental laws impose liability for the management and disposal of asbestos-containing materials and for the release of such materials into the air. These laws may provide for third parties to seek recovery from owners or operators of real properties for personal injury associated with asbestos-containing materials. In connection with the ownership, operation, management, and development of real properties, we may be considered an owner or operator of such properties and, therefore, are potentially liable for removal or remediation costs, and also may be liable for governmental fines and injuries to persons and property. When we arrange for the treatment or disposal of hazardous substances at landfills or other facilities owned by other persons, we may be liable for the removal or remediation costs at such facilities. We are not aware of any environmental liabilities relating to our investment properties which would have a material adverse effect on our business, assets, or results of operations. However, we cannot assure you that environmental liabilities will not arise in the future and that such liabilities will not have a material adverse effect on our business, assets or results of operation.

Of the 118 manufactured home communities we currently operate, forty-five have their own wastewater treatment facility or water distribution system, or both. At these locations, we are subject to compliance with monthly, quarterly and yearly testing for contaminants as outlined by the individual state's Department of Environmental Protection Agencies. Currently, we are not subject to radon or asbestos monitoring requirements.

Additionally, in connection with the management of the properties or upon acquisition or financing of a property, the Company authorizes the preparation of Phase I or similar environmental reports (which involves general inspections without soil sampling or ground water analysis) completed by independent environmental consultants. Based upon such environmental reports and the Company's ongoing review of its properties, as of the date of this Annual Report, the Company is not aware of any environmental condition with respect to any of its properties which it believes would be reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on its financial condition and/or results of operations. However, these reports cannot reflect conditions arising after the studies were completed, and no assurances can be given that existing environm