# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

# FORM S-8 REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

## WHEELER REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) Riversedge North
2529 Virginia Beach Blvd., Suite 200
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452
(Address, including zip code, of Principal Executive Offices)

45-2681082 (I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. 2012 Stock Incentive Plan (Full title of the plan)

Jon S. Wheeler
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc.
Riversedge North
2529 Virginia Beach Blvd., Suite 200
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452
(Name and address of agent for service)

 $(757)\ 627\text{-}9088$  (Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

With Copies to:

Bradley A. Haneberg, Esq. Kaufman & Canoles, P.C. Two James Center 1021 East Cary Street, Suite 1400 Richmond, Virginia 23219 (804) 771-5700 – telephone (804) 771-5777 – facsimile

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

Large accelerated filer □	Accelerated filer □	Non-accelerated filer □	Smaller reporting company ⊠	
			<u>_</u>	

### CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

		Proposed Maximum	Proposed Maximum	
Title of Securities to	Amount to Be	Offering Price	Aggregate Offering	Amount of
be Registered	Registered (1)	Per Unit (2)	Price (2)	Registration Fee (2)
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	500,000 shares	\$4.31	\$2,155,000	\$277.56

- (1) This registration statement is being filed for purposes of registering 500,000 shares of common stock of Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc., issuable pursuant to our 2012 Stock Incentive Plan, as the same may be further amended or restated (the "Plan"). Pursuant to Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), this registration statement (the "Registration Statement") also covers an indeterminate number of shares that may be offered or issued as a result of stock splits, stock dividends, or similar transactions.
- (2) Estimated pursuant to Rule 457(h) and Rule 457(c) of the General Rules and Regulations under the Securities Act for the purpose of computing the registration fee, based on the average of the high and low sales prices on The NASDAQ Capital Market on October 2, 2013, which was \$4.31.

This !	Registration S	Statement sl	nall l	become effectiv	e upon	filing in	accordance	with Rule	e 462(a)	) under th	e Securities	Act of	1933	
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# PART I INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

The documents containing the information specified in Part I of this Registration Statement will be sent or given to all persons who participate in the Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. 2012 Stock Incentive Plan, as specified by Rule 428(b)(1) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). These documents are not required to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission" or "SEC") as part of this Registration Statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 24 of the Securities Act. These documents and the documents incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement pursuant to Item 3 of Part II of this Registration Statement constitute a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act.

# PART II INFORMATION REQUIRED IN REGISTRATION STATEMENT

#### **Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference**

The following documents filed by us with the SEC are incorporated by reference into this prospectus. You should carefully read and consider all of these documents before making an investment decision.

Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, filed on April 1, 2013;

Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarters ended March 31, 2013 and June 30, 2013, filed on May 15, 2013 and August 12, 2013, respectively;

Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 17, 2013, February 11, 2013, February 19, 2013 (amended version), February 21, 2013, March 5, 2013 (amended version), March 6, 2013 (amended version), April 2, 2013, April 10, 2013, April 18, 2013, April 22, 2013 (amended version), April 25, 2013, April 30, 2013, May 2, 2013, May 15, 2013, May 21, 2013, May 23, 2013, May 28, 2013, June 6, 2013, June 13, 2013, June 13, 2013 (amended version), June 18, 2013, June 19, 2013 (amended version), July 19, 2013, July 26, 2013, August 14, 2013, August 19, 2013, August 23, 2013, August 30, 2013. September 6, 2013, September 18, 2013, September 19, 2013 and September 27, 2013; and

Nothing in this prospectus shall be deemed to incorporate information deemed furnished but not filed with the SEC. Any statement contained in a document that is incorporated by reference will be modified or superseded for all purposes to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus modifies or is contrary to that previous statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed a part of this prospectus except as so modified or superseded.

We will provide to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a prospectus is delivered, a copy of any or all of the reports or documents that have been incorporated by reference into this prospectus but not delivered with this prospectus. We will provide these reports upon written or oral request at no cost to the requester. Please direct your request, either in writing or by telephone, to Secretary, Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc., Riversedge North, 2529 Virginia Beach Boulevard, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452, telephone number (757) 627-9088. Our SEC filings are also available to the public on our website, www.WHLR.us. The information on our website is not a part of this prospectus and the reference to our website address does not constitute incorporation by reference of any information on our website into this prospectus.

#### **Item 4. Description of Securities**

Not applicable.

#### **Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel**

Not applicable.

#### **Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers**

Maryland law permits a Maryland corporation to include in its charter a provision limiting the liability of its directors and officers to the corporation and its stockholders for money damages except for liability resulting from actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services or active and deliberate dishonesty that is established by a final judgment and is material to the cause of action. Our charter contains a provision that eliminates such liability to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

The Maryland General Corporation Law (the "MGCL") requires a Maryland corporation (unless its charter provides otherwise, which our charter does not) to indemnify a director or officer who has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he or she is made or threatened to be made a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity. The MGCL permits a Maryland corporation to indemnify its present and former directors and officers, among others, against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses actually incurred by them in connection with any proceeding to which they may be made or are threatened to be made a party by reason of their service in those or other capacities unless it is established that:

- the act or omission of the director or officer was material to the matter giving rise to the proceeding and:
- · was committed in bad faith; or
- · was the result of active and deliberate dishonesty;
- · the director or officer actually received an improper personal benefit in money, property or services; or
- in the case of any criminal proceeding, the director or officer had reasonable cause to believe that the act or omission was unlawful.

However, under the MGCL, a Maryland corporation may not indemnify a director or officer for an adverse judgment in a suit by or in the right of the corporation or if the director or officer was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received, unless in either case a court orders indemnification and then only for expenses. In addition, the MGCL permits a Maryland corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer, without requiring a preliminary determination of the director's or officer's ultimate entitlement to indemnification, upon the corporation's receipt of:

• a written affirmation by the director or officer of his or her good faith belief that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification by the corporation; and

• a written undertaking by the director or officer or on the director's or officer's behalf to repay the amount paid or reimbursed by the corporation if it is ultimately determined that the director or officer did not meet the standard of conduct.

Our charter authorizes us to obligate our company and our bylaws obligate us, to the fullest extent permitted by Maryland law in effect from time to time, to indemnify and to pay or reimburse reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding, without requiring a preliminary determination of the director's or officer's ultimate entitlement to indemnification, to:

- any present or former director or officer who is made or threatened to be made a party to the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity; or
- any individual who, while serving as our director or officer and at our request, serves or has served as a director, officer, partner, trustee, member or manager of another corporation, real estate investment trust, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise and who is made or threatened to be made a party to the proceeding by reason of his or her service in that capacity.

Our charter and bylaws also permit us, with the approval of our board of directors, to indemnify and advance expenses to any person who served a predecessor of ours in any of the capacities described above and to any employee or agent of our company or a predecessor of our company.

Insofar as the foregoing provisions permit indemnification of directors, officers or persons controlling us for liability arising under the Securities Act, we have been informed that in the opinion of the SEC, this indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

#### **Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed**

Not applicable.

#### **Item 8. Exhibits**

Exhibit No.	Exhibit Description
4.1	Articles of Amendment and Restatement of Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust Inc. Charter (1)
4.2	Amendment to Charter (2)
4.3	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. (1)
5.1	Opinion of Kaufman & Canoles, P.C. (3)
23.1	Consent of Cherry Bekaert LLP (3)
23.2	Consent of Cherry Bekaert LLP (3)
23.3	Consent of Kaufman & Canoles, P.C. (contained in its opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1 hereto) (3)
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on the signature pages hereof) (3)
99.1	2012 Stock Incentive Plan (1)

#### Item 9. Undertakings

- (a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:
  - (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
    - (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;
  - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;
  - (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) shall not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by these paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- (b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Exchange Act), that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

## **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in Virginia Beach, Virginia on October 4, 2013.

WHEELER REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST, INC.

By: /s/ Jon S. Wheeler

Jon S. Wheeler Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

#### POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, the undersigned directors and officers of Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. do hereby constitute and appoint Jon S. Wheeler and Steven M. Belote, jointly and severally, as our true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, to do any and all acts and things in our name and behalf in our capacities as directors and officers and to execute any and all instruments for us and in our names in the capacities indicated below, which said attorney-in-fact and agent may deem necessary or advisable to enable said corporation to comply with the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and any rules, regulations and requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission, in connection with this registration statement, including specifically but without limitation, power and authority to sign for us or any of us in our names in the capacities indicated below, any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this registration statement; and we do hereby ratify and confirm all that said attorney and agent shall do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

<b>Signature</b>	<u>Title</u>	<b>Date</b>
/S/ JON S. WHEELER Jon. S. Wheeler	Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	October 4, 2013
/S/ STEVEN M. BELOTE Steven M. Belote	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)	October 4, 2013
/S/ CHRISTOPHER J. ETTEL Christopher J. Ettel	Director	October 4, 2013
/S/ DAVID KELLY David Kelly	Director	October 4, 2013
/S/ WILLIAM W. KING William W. King	Director	October 4, 2013
/S/ SANJAY MADHU Sanjay Madhu	Director	October 4, 2013
/S/ CARL B. MCGOWAN, JR. Carl B. McGowan, Jr.	Director	October 4, 2013
/S/ ANN L. MCKINNEY Ann L. McKinney	Director	October 4, 2013
/s/ JEFFREY M. ZWERDLING  Jeffrey M. Zwerdling	Director	October 4, 2013

#### INDEX TO EXHIBITS

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23.3	Consent of Kaufman & Canoles, P.C. (contained in its opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1 hereto) (3)
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on the signature pages hereof) (3)
99.1	2012 Stock Incentive Plan (1)

<sup>(1)</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form S-11 (Registration No. 333-177262) previously filed pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933 and hereby incorporated by reference.

<sup>(2)</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust Inc.'s Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on June 13, 2013.

<sup>(3)</sup> Filed herewith.

KAUFMAN & CANOLES attorneys at law

Kaufman & Canoles, P.C. Two James Center 1021 East Cary Street, Suite 1400 Richmond, VA 23219

Mailing Address
Post Office Box 27828
Richmond, VA 23261

T (804) 771.5700 F (804) 771.5777

kaufCAN.com

October 4, 2013

Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. Riversedge North 2529 Virginia Beach Blvd., Suite 200 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452

Re: Registration Statement on Form S-8

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have served as Maryland counsel to Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc., a Maryland corporation (the "Company"), in connection with certain matters of Maryland law arising out of the registration of up to 500,000 shares (the "Shares") of the Company's common stock, \$0.01 par value per share (the "Common Stock"), in an offering of the Common Stock covered by the above-referenced Registration Statement, and all amendments thereto (collectively, the "Registration Statement"), filed by the Company with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act").

In connection with our representation of the Company, and as a basis for the opinion hereinafter set forth, we have examined originals, or copies certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of the following documents (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Documents"):

- 1. The Registration Statement and the prospectus included therein, in the form in which it was transmitted to the Commission under the Securities Act:
- 2. The charter of the Company (the "Charter"), certified by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation of Maryland (the "SDAT");
- 3. The Bylaws of the Company, certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;
- 4. A certificate of the SDAT as to the good standing of the Company, dated as of October 2, 2013;

Disclosure Required by Internal Revenue Service Circular 230: This communication is not a tax opinion. To the extent it contains tax advice, it is not intended or written by the practitioner to be used, and it cannot be used by the taxpayer, for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer by the Internal Revenue Service.

- 5. Resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company (the "Board") or a duly authorized committee thereof relating to, among other matters, the registration and issuance of the Shares (the "Resolutions"), certified as of the date hereof by an officer of the Company;
- 6. A certificate executed by an officer of the Company, dated as of the date hereof; and
- 7. Such other documents and matters as we have deemed necessary or appropriate to express the opinion set forth below, subject to the assumptions, limitations and qualifications stated herein.

In expressing the opinion set forth below, we have assumed the following:

- Each individual executing any of the Documents, whether on behalf of such individual or another person, is legally competent to do so.
- 2. Each individual executing any of the Documents on behalf of a party (other than the Company) is duly authorized to do so.
- 3. Each of the parties (other than the Company) executing any of the Documents has duly and validly executed and delivered each of the Documents to which such party is a signatory, and such party's obligations set forth therein are legal, valid and binding and are enforceable in accordance with all stated terms.
- 4. All Documents submitted to us as originals are authentic. The form and content of all Documents submitted to us as unexecuted drafts do not differ in any respect relevant to this opinion from the form and content of such Documents as executed and delivered. All Documents submitted to us as certified or photostatic copies conform to the original documents. All signatures on all Documents are genuine. All public records reviewed or relied upon by us or on our behalf are true and complete. All representations, warranties, statements and information contained in the Documents are true and complete. There has been no oral or written modification of or amendment to any of the Documents, and there has been no waiver of any provision of any of the Documents, by action or omission of the parties or otherwise.
- The Shares will not be issued or transferred in violation of the restrictions on transfer and ownership contained in Article VI of the Charter.

Based upon the foregoing, and subject to the assumptions, limitations and qualifications stated herein, it is our opinion that:

- 1. The Company is a corporation duly incorporated and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Maryland and is in good standing with the SDAT.
- 2. The issuance of the Shares has been duly authorized and, when and if delivered against payment therefor in accordance with the Registration Statement, the Resolutions and any other resolutions adopted by the Board or a duly authorized committee thereof relating thereto, the Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

The foregoing opinion is limited to the laws of the State of Maryland and we do not express any opinion herein concerning any other law. We express no opinion as to compliance with any federal or state securities laws, including the securities laws of the State of Maryland, or as to federal or state laws regarding fraudulent transfers. To the extent that any matter as to which our opinion is expressed herein would be governed by the laws of any jurisdiction other than the State of Maryland, we do not express any opinion on such matter. The opinion expressed herein is subject to the effect of any judicial decision which may permit the introduction of parol evidence to modify the terms or the interpretation of agreements.

The opinion expressed herein is limited to the matters specifically set forth herein and no other opinion shall be inferred beyond the matters expressly stated. We assume no obligation to supplement this opinion if any applicable law changes after the date hereof or if we become aware of any fact that might change the opinion expressed herein after the date hereof.

This opinion is being furnished to you for submission to the Commission as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to the use of the name of our firm therein. In giving this consent, we do not admit that we are within the category of persons whose consent is required by Section 7 of the Securities Act.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Kaufman & Canoles

Kaufman & Canoles, P.C.

## Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement of Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc., of our report dated March 29, 2013 relating to the consolidated and combined financial statements and financial statement schedules for the two years ended December 31, 2012, which appears in the Company's annual report on Form 10-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

/s/ Cherry Bekaert LLP Virginia Beach, Virginia October 4, 2013

## **Consent of Independent Auditor**

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement of Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc., of our reports, with respect to the Statement of Revenues and Certain Operating Expenses of Forrest Gallery Shopping Center and Tampa Festival Centre for the year ended December 31, 2012.

/s/ Cherry Bekaert LLP Virginia Beach, Virginia October 4, 2013