

Cash-settled Total Return Swap

(obligation to buy)

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL
OMB Number: 3235-0104
Estimated average burden
hours per response... 0.5

#### INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| (Fillit of Type Kespolis                          | ses)     |         |  |  |  |  |                       |   |  |
|---|----------|---------|--|--|--|--|-----------------------|---|--|
| 1. Name and Address<br>STILWELL JOS               |          | Person* | 2. Date of Event Requiring<br>Statement (Month/Day/Year)<br>12/31/2019 |  | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br>Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc. [whlr] |  |                       |   |  |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 111 BROADWAY, 12TH FLOOR, |          |         |  | Issuer   |  | of Reporting Person(s) to  |                       | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)  |  |
| NEW YORK, NY                                      | (Street) |         |  |  | (Check _X_ Director Officer (give till below)  | tall applicable)  10% Own  Other (spe                                |                       | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check<br>Applicable Line) Form filed by One Reporting Person _X_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |  |
| (City)  | (State)  | (Zip)   | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned                 |  |  |  |                       |   |  |
| 1.Title of Security<br>(Instr. 4)                 |          |         |  | 2. Amount of Sec<br>Beneficially Own<br>(Instr. 4) |  | 3. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I)<br>(Instr. 5) | 4. Natur<br>(Instr. 5 | re of Indirect Beneficial Ownership<br>)  |  |
| Common Stock                                      |          |         |  | 137,017  |  | I  | See fo                | otnote (1)  |  |
| Common Stock                                      |          |         |  | 88,195   |  | I  | See footnote (2)      |   |  |
| Common Stock                                      |          |         |  | 656,887  |  | I  | See footnote (3)      |   |  |
| _   |          |         |  |  |  |  |                       |   |  |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security 4. Conversion 2. Date Exercisable and 3. Title and Amount of 5. Ownership 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial (Instr. 4) **Expiration Date** Securities Underlying Derivative or Exercise Form of Ownership (Month/Day/Year) Security Price of Derivative (Instr. 5) (Instr. 4) Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Security Date Expiration Amount Indirect (I) Exercisable Date Title (Instr. 5) Number of Shares Series D Cumulative Convertible (4) (4) Ι See footnote (1) Common Stock 12,385 \$ 16.96 Preferred Stock Series D Cumulative Convertible <u>(4)</u> <u>(4)</u> Common Stock 6,912 \$ 16.96 Ι See footnote (2) Preferred Stock Series D Cumulative Convertible (4) <u>(4)</u> Common Stock I See footnote (3) 54,357 \$ 16.96 Preferred Stock Series B Cash-settled Total Return Swap <u>(8)</u> s (5) 03/01/2022 Convertible 21,154 I See footnote (5) (obligation to buy) Preferred Stock Series D Cumulative Cash-settled Total Return Swap (8) 376,693 \\$ (5) I See footnote (5) 03/01/2022 Convertible (obligation to buy) Preferred Stock Series B Cash-settled Total Return Swap (8) § (6) See footnote (6) 03/01/2022 Convertible I 2,559 (obligation to buy) Preferred Stock Series D Cumulative Cash-settled Total Return Swap **(8)** 03/01/2022 54,306 § (6) Ι See footnote (6) Convertible (obligation to buy) Preferred Stock

Series B

Preferred Stock

55,929

§ (7)

Ι

See footnote (7)

03/01/2022 Convertible

<u>(8)</u>

| Cash-settled Total Return Swap (obligation to buy) | (8) | 03/01/2022 | Series D<br>Cumulative<br>Convertible<br>Preferred Stock | 22,282 | \$ <u>(7)</u> | I | See footnote (7) |  |
|--|-----|------------|--|--------|---------------|---|------------------|--|
|--|-----|------------|--|--------|---------------|---|------------------|--|

### **Reporting Owners**

|   | Relationships |              |         |                                |  |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------|--------------------------------|--|
| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Director      | 10%<br>Owner | Officer | Other                          |  |
| STILWELL JOSEPH<br>111 BROADWAY, 12TH FLOOR<br>NEW YORK, NY 10006                       | X             |              |         |                                |  |
| Stilwell Value LLC<br>111 BROADWAY, 12TH FLOOR<br>NEW YORK, NY 10006                    |               |              |         | General Partner                |  |
| Stilwell Activist Investments, L.P.<br>111 BROADWAY<br>12TH FLOOR<br>NEW YORK, NY 10006 |               |              |         | Private Investment Partnership |  |
| Stilwell Activist Fund, L.P. 111 BROADWAY 12TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10006                 |               |              |         | Private Investment Partnership |  |
| Stilwell Value Partners VII, L.P.<br>111 BROADWAY, 12TH FLOOR<br>NEW YORK, NY 10006     |               |              |         | private Investment Partnership |  |

#### **Signatures**

| /s/ Joseph Stilwell   | 01/08/2020 |
|---|------------|
| **Signature of Reporting Person   | Date       |
| /a/ Jaconh Stilwall as authorized agent for Stilwall Value I I C                | 01/08/2020 |
| /s/ Joseph Stilwell as authorized agent for Stilwell Value LLC                  | 01/08/2020 |
| **Signature of Reporting Person   | Date       |
| /s/ Joseph Stilwell as authorized agent for Stilwell Activist Fund, L.P.        | 01/08/2020 |
| **Signature of Reporting Person   | Date       |
| /s/ Joseph Stilwell as authorized agent for Stilwell Activist Investments, L.P. | 01/08/2020 |
| **Signature of Reporting Person   | Date       |
| /s/ Joseph Stilwell as authorized agent for Stilwell Value Partners VII, L.P.   | 01/08/2020 |
| **Signature of Reporting Person   | Date       |
| /s/ Joseph Stilwell as authorized agent for Stilwell Value Partners VII, L.P.   | 01/08/2020 |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- These shares are owned directly by Stilwell Value Partners VII, L.P. ("SVP VII") and indirectly by Joseph Stilwell in his capacity as the managing member and owner of (1) Stilwell Value LLC ("Value"), which is the general partner of SVP VII. Joseph Stilwell disclaims beneficial ownership of all shares reported as owned indirectly except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- These shares are owned directly by Stilwell Activist Fund, L.P. ("SAF") and indirectly by Joseph Stilwell in his capacity as the managing member and owner of Value, (2) which is the general partner of SAF. Joseph Stilwell disclaims beneficial ownership of all shares reported as owned indirectly except to the extent of his pecuniary interest
- These shares are owned directly by Stilwell Activist Investments, L.P. ("SAI") and indirectly by Joseph Stilwell in his capacity as the managing member and owner of (3) Value, which is the general partner of SAI. Joseph Stilwell disclaims beneficial ownership of all shares reported as owned indirectly except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- (4) Each share of Series D Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock (the "Series D Stock") is convertible into shares of Wheeler Real Estate Investment Trust, Inc.'s (the "Company") common stock at \$16.96 per share. The Series D Stock has no expiration date.

- SAI entered into a certain cash-settled total return swap agreement, effective as of January 22, 2019 (the "Swap Agreement"), pursuant to which it purchased certain cash-settled swaps (the "Swaps") constituting economic exposure to notional shares of the Company's Series B Convertible Preferred Stock (the "Series B Stock") and Series D Stock with maturity dates of March 1, 2022. The price of the Swaps for the Series B Stock ranged from \$11.10 to \$11.12, and the price of the Swaps for the Series D Stock ranged from \$13.75 to \$15.85. The Swap Agreement provides SAI with economic results that are comparable to the economic results of ownership, but does not provide SAI with the power to vote or direct the voting or dispose of or direct the disposition of the shares of Series B Stock and Series D Stock. Joseph Stilwell disclaims beneficial ownership of all shares underlying the Swap Agreement reported as owned indirectly except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- SAF entered into a certain cash-settled total return swap agreement, effective as of May 20, 2019 (the "Additional Swap Agreement"), pursuant to which it purchased Swaps constituting economic exposure to notional shares of the Company's Series B Stock and Series D Stock with maturity dates of March 1, 2022. The price of the Swaps for the Series B Stock was \$11.10, and the price of the Swaps for the Series D Stock ranged from \$14.75 to \$15.85. The Additional Swap Agreement provides SAF with economic results that are comparable to the economic results of ownership, but does not provide SAF with the power to vote or direct the voting or dispose of or direct the disposition of the shares of Series B Stock and Series D Stock. Joseph Stilwell disclaims beneficial ownership of all shares underlying the Additional Swap Agreement reported as owned indirectly except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- SVP VII entered into a certain cash-settled total return swap agreement, effective as of May 20, 2019 (the "Second Additional Swap Agreement"), pursuant to which it purchased Swaps constituting economic exposure to notional shares of the Company's Series B Stock and Series D Stock with maturity dates of March 1, 2022. The price of the Swaps for the Series B Stock ranged from \$11.73 to \$12.88, and the price of the Swaps for the Series D Stock ranged from \$14.50 to \$15.50. The Second Additional Swap Agreement provides SVP VII with economic results that are comparable to the economic results of ownership, but does not provide SVP VII with the power to vote or direct the voting or dispose of or direct the disposition of the shares of Series B Stock and Series D Stock. Joseph Stilwell disclaims beneficial ownership of all shares underlying the Second Additional Swap Agreement reported as owned indirectly except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- (8) These Swaps can be settled at any time prior to the expiration date.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, See Instruction 6 for procedure.

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.