

U-Store-It Trust  
Form S-3ASR  
March 30, 2007  
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 30, 2007

Registration Statement No. 333-

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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

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**FORM S-3**

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

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**U-Store-It Trust**

*(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified In its Charter)*

**Maryland**  
*(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)*

**20-1024732**  
*(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)*

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**6745 Engle Road**

**Suite 300**

**Cleveland, OH 44130**

**(440) 234-0700**

*(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)*

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**Kathleen A. Weigand, Esq.**

**Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary**

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U-Store-It Trust

6745 Engle Road, Suite 300

Cleveland, OH 44130

(440) 234-0700

*(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent for Service)*

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*Copies to:*

**John A. Good, Esq.**

**Helen W. Brown, Esq.**

**Bass, Berry & Sims PLC**

**100 Peabody Place, Suite 900**

**Memphis, TN 38103-2625**

**(901) 543-5900**

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

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

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

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

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

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

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**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

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<b>Title of each class of securities to be registered</b>	<b>Amount to be registered/Proposed maximum offering price per unit/Proposed maximum offering price/Amount of registration fee</b>
Common Shares, par value \$0.01 per share	\$0 <sup>(1)</sup>

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Preferred Shares, par value \$0.01 per share

Depository Shares<sup>(2)</sup>

Debt Securities

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- (1) The registrant is registering hereby an unspecified amount of securities of each identified class of securities and is relying on Rules 456(b) and 457(r). Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable on exercise, conversion or exchange of other securities. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r), the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.
  - (2) Each depository share will be issued under a deposit agreement, will represent an interest in a fractional share or multiple shares of preferred stock and will be evidenced by a depository receipt.
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**PROSPECTUS**

**Common Shares**

**Preferred Shares**

**Depositary Shares**

**Debt Securities**

We may, from time to time, offer to sell common shares of beneficial interest, or common shares, preferred shares of beneficial interest, or preferred shares, either separately or represented by depositary shares, and debt securities. The preferred shares we may offer may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for debt or common or preferred shares or other securities of the Company, or debt or equity securities of one or more other entities. We refer to our common shares, preferred shares, depositary shares and debt securities collectively as the securities. We may offer the securities separately or together, in separate series or classes and in amounts, at prices and on terms described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. In addition, this prospectus may be used to offer securities for the account of persons other than us.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities. The specific terms of any securities to be offered, and any other information relating to a specific offering, will be set forth in a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, in a supplement to this prospectus or in one or more documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

We or any selling securityholder may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis.

Our common shares are listed on The New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the symbol YSI.

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**Investing in our securities involves risks. Before buying our securities, you should refer to the risk factors included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and our periodic reports which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, in prospectus supplements relating to specific offerings and in other information filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.**

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

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This prospectus is dated March 30, 2007.

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a universal shelf registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act. To the extent required for any offer and sale, a prospectus supplement will set forth the type and number of securities being offered, the offering price, the names of any underwriters, dealers, brokers or agents and the applicable sales commission or discount. This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement do not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. For further information, we refer you to the registration statement, including the exhibits. Statements contained in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement about the provisions or contents of any agreement or other document are not necessarily complete. If the rules and regulations of the SEC require that such agreement or document be filed as an exhibit to the registration statement, please see such agreement or document for a complete description of these matters.

You should rely only on the information provided or incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer to sell is not authorized, or in which the person is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. You should not assume that the information included in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement, or the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein is accurate as of any date other than the date of this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or incorporated document, as applicable. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

You should read carefully the entire prospectus and any prospectus supplement, as well as the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus and/or any prospectus supplement, before making an investment decision.

When used in this prospectus, except where the context otherwise requires, the terms *we*, *us*, *our* and the *Company* refer to U-Store-It Trust.

**WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION**

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. Accordingly, we file current, quarterly and annual reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy these reports, proxy statements and other information at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room. Our SEC filings also are available to the public at the Internet website maintained by the SEC at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) and from commercial document retrieval services.

We also make available free of charge through our website our annual report 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 Exchange Act, our definitive proxy statements and Section 16 reports on Forms 3, 4 and 5, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such reports or amendments with, or furnish them to, the SEC. Our Internet website address is [www.u-store-it.com](http://www.u-store-it.com). The information located on, or hyperlinked or otherwise connected to, our website is not, and shall not be deemed to be, a part of this prospectus or incorporated into any other filings that we make with the SEC.

You may also inspect the information that we file with the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, at the offices of the NYSE located at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. For further information about obtaining copies of our public filings from the NYSE, please call (212) 656-5060.

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**INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION BY REFERENCE**

We incorporate information into this prospectus by reference, which means that we disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except to the extent superseded by information contained herein or by information contained in documents filed with the SEC after the date of this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents set forth below that have been previously filed with the SEC (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, filed with the SEC on March 16, 2007;

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 10, 2006;

our Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed with the SEC on April 21, 2006 (amending our Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 10, 2006);

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 20, 2007 (except that the information included in Item 2.02 (including Exhibit 99.1 thereto) shall not be deemed incorporated by reference into this prospectus);

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 26, 2007;

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 1, 2007;

our Current Report on Form 8-K, dated March 22, 2007 and filed with the SEC on March 28, 2007;

our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 28, 2007; and

the description of our common shares from our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on October 19, 2004, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We also incorporate by reference into this prospectus additional documents that we may file with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, from the date of this prospectus until all of the securities offered by this prospectus have been sold or we otherwise terminate the offering of these securities; provided, however, that we are not incorporating by reference any additional documents or information furnished and not filed with the SEC.

You may obtain copies of any of these filings by contacting us at the following address and phone number or by contacting the SEC or NYSE as described above. Documents incorporated by reference are available from us without charge, excluding all exhibits unless an exhibit has been specifically incorporated by reference into this prospectus, by requesting them in writing, by telephone or via the Internet at:

U-Store-It Trust

Attention: Investor Relations

460 East Swedesford Road, Suite 3000

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Wayne, PA 19087

(610) 293-5700

Internet Website: [www.u-store-it.com](http://www.u-store-it.com)

The information contained on our website does not constitute a part of this prospectus, and our website address supplied above is intended to be an inactive textual reference only and not an active hyperlink to our website.



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**FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, together with other documents and information incorporated by reference into this prospectus, contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act, and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Forward-looking statements relate to expectations, beliefs, projections, future plans and strategies, anticipated events or trends and similar expressions concerning matters that are not historical facts. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terms such as may, will, should, expects, plans, anticipates, believes, estimates, predicts, potential or the negative of these terms or other comparable

The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference reflect our current views about future events and are subject to risks, uncertainties, assumptions and changes in circumstances that may cause our actual results to differ significantly from those expressed in any forward-looking statement. We caution that while we make such statements in good faith and we believe such statements are based on reasonable assumptions, including without limitation, management's examination of historical operating trends, data contained in records and other data available from third parties, we cannot assure you that our projections, plans or expectations will be achieved.

In addition to other factors and risks discussed in the quarterly, annual, current and other reports that we file with the SEC, some important factors that could cause actual results or outcomes to differ significantly from those discussed in forward-looking statements include without limitation:

national and local economic, business, real estate and other market conditions;

the competitive environment in which we operate;

the execution of our business plan;

financing risks;

increases in interest rates and operating costs;

our ability to maintain our status as a REIT for federal income tax purposes;

acquisition and development risks;

changes in real estate and zoning laws or regulations;

risks related to natural disasters;

potential environmental and other liabilities; and

other factors affecting the real estate industry generally or the self-storage industry in particular.

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Before acquiring our securities, you should carefully consider the risks and information contained, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus or in any accompanying prospectus supplement, including, without limitation, the risks of an investment in our company set forth under the captions Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors and Part II, Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations (or similar captions) in our most recent annual report on Form 10-K and under the captions Part II, Item 1A. Risk Factors and Part I, Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, and as described in our other filings with the SEC. The occurrence of any events or circumstances that we identify as risks might cause you to lose all or a part of your investment in our securities. We do not intend, and disclaim any duty or obligation, to update or revise any industry information or forward-looking statements set forth in this prospectus to reflect new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required by the securities laws.

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**THE COMPANY**

We are a self-administered and self-managed real estate investment trust, or REIT, focused on the ownership, operation, acquisition and development of self-storage facilities in the United States.

We own and conduct all of our business through U-Store-It, L.P., our operating partnership, of which we serve as general partner, and its subsidiaries. As of December 31, 2006, we owned approximately 91.7% of the aggregate partnership interests in our operating partnership. Since its formation in 1996, our operating partnership has been engaged in virtually all aspects of the self-storage business, including the development, acquisition, ownership and operation of self-storage facilities.

Our self-storage facilities are designed to offer affordable, easily-accessible and secure storage space for residential and commercial customers. Our customers rent storage units for their exclusive use, typically on a month-to-month basis. Our facilities are specifically designed to accommodate both residential and commercial customers, with features such as security systems and wide aisles and load-bearing capabilities for large truck access. Our customers can access their storage units during business hours, and some of our facilities provide customers with 24-hour access through computer-controlled access systems. Our goal is to provide our customers with the highest standard of facilities and service in the industry.

We were formed in July 2004 to succeed the self-storage operations owned directly and indirectly by Robert J. Amsdell, Barry L. Amsdell, Todd C. Amsdell, and their affiliated entities and related family trusts (which entities and family trusts are referred to herein as the Amsdell Entities). We are organized as a REIT under Maryland law, and we believe that we qualify for taxation as a REIT for federal income tax purposes beginning with our short taxable year ended December 31, 2004. From inception until October 2004, we did not have any operations. We commenced operations as a publicly-traded REIT in October 2004 after completing the mergers of certain Amsdell Entities with and into us, our initial public offering (IPO), and the consummation of various other formation transactions that occurred concurrently with, or shortly after, completion of our IPO.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

Unless we specify otherwise in a prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of securities by us to provide additional funds for general corporate purposes. If net proceeds from a specific offering will be used to repay indebtedness, the applicable prospectus supplement will describe the relevant terms of the debt to be repaid. We will not receive proceeds from the sale of securities by persons other than us except as may otherwise be stated in an applicable prospectus supplement.

**CONSOLIDATED RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

Our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges is as follows for the periods indicated:

	Twelve Months Ended December 31, <sup>(1)</sup>				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	1.54x	1.75x	0.08x <sup>(2)</sup>	1.04x	0.81x <sup>(2)</sup>

(1) The twelve months ended December 31, 2004 represents consolidated operating results for the Company from October 21, 2004 to December 31, 2004 and consolidated and combined operating results for Acquiport/Amsdell (the Predecessor) from January 1, 2004 to October 20, 2004. The operating results for the year ended December 31, 2004 are not comparable to future expected operating results of the Company since they include various IPO-related charges.

(2) Due to our loss in fiscal 2006 and 2004, the coverage ratio was less than 1:1. The Company must generate additional earnings of \$9.4 million and \$33.5 million to achieve a coverage of 1:1. The losses in fiscal 2006 included significant depreciation of operating facilities resulting from recent acquisitions.

For the purpose of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of income from continuing operations before loss from investments in unconsolidated entities and minority interests, plus fixed charges less capitalized interest. Fixed charges consist of interest expense, capitalized interest, amortized premiums, discounts and capitalized expenses relating to debt and an estimate of the interest component of rent expense.



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### **DESCRIPTION OF OUR CAPITAL STOCK**

The following description of our capital stock, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the capital stock that may be offered under this prospectus. For the complete terms of our capital stock, please refer to our declaration of trust and bylaws that are filed as exhibits to our reports incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

#### **Common Shares**

Our declaration of trust provides that we may issue up to 200,000,000 common shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.01 per share. As of December 31, 2006, there were 57,335,490 common shares issued and outstanding.

Maryland law and our declaration of trust provide that none of our shareholders is personally liable for any of our obligations solely as a result of that shareholder's status as a shareholder.

Subject to the provisions of our declaration of trust regarding restrictions on the transfer and ownership of shares of beneficial interest, each outstanding common share entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders, including the election of trustees, and, except as provided with respect to any other class or series of shares of beneficial interest that we may issue, the holders of such common shares will possess exclusive voting power. There is no cumulative voting in the election of trustees. As a result, the holders of a majority of the outstanding common shares, voting as a single class, can elect all of the trustees then standing for election. Our bylaws provide that a plurality of the votes cast at a meeting of shareholders duly called at which a quorum is present is sufficient to elect a trustee and that a majority of the votes cast at a meeting of shareholders duly called at which a quorum is present is sufficient to approve any other matter which may properly come before the meeting, unless a higher vote is required under our bylaws, our declaration of trust or applicable statute.

Under the Maryland statute governing REITs formed under the laws of that state, which we refer to as the Maryland REIT law, a Maryland REIT generally cannot amend its declaration of trust or merge with another entity without the affirmative vote of shareholders holding at least two-thirds of the shares entitled to vote on the matter unless a lesser percentage (but not less than a majority of all the votes entitled to be cast on the matter) is set forth in the REIT's declaration of trust. Our declaration of trust provides that amendments to the declaration of trust and our merger with another entity may be approved by the affirmative vote of the holders of not less than a majority of all votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Under the Maryland REIT law and our declaration of trust, our trustees will be permitted to amend the declaration of trust from time to time to maintain our qualification as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, and under the Maryland REIT law, without the affirmative vote or written consent of the shareholders.

All common shares offered by this prospectus will be duly authorized, fully paid and nonassessable. Holders of our common shares are entitled to receive dividends and distributions when authorized by our board of trustees, and declared by us out of assets legally available for the payment of dividends or distributions. They also are entitled to share ratably in our assets legally available for distribution to our shareholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, after payment of or adequate provision for all of our known debts and liabilities. These rights are subject to the preferential rights of any other class or series of our shares and to the provisions of our declaration of trust regarding restrictions on transfer of our shares.

Holders of our common shares have no preference, conversion, exchange, sinking fund, redemption or appraisal rights and have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any of our securities. Subject to the restrictions on transfer of shares contained in our declaration of trust and to the power of the board of trustees to create common shares with differing voting rights, all common shares have equal dividend, liquidation and other rights.

#### **Preferred Shares**

Our declaration of trust provides that we may issue up to 40,000,000 preferred shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.01 per share. As of December 31, 2006, there were no preferred shares issued and outstanding.

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Our board is authorized to issue the preferred shares in one or more series and to fix and designate the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of the preferred shares, including:

dividend rights;

conversion rights;

voting rights;

redemption rights and terms of redemption; and

liquidation preferences.

Our board may fix the number of shares constituting any series and the designations of these series.

The rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions of the preferred shares of each series will be fixed by articles supplementary relating to each series. The prospectus supplement relating to each series will specify the terms of the preferred shares, including:

the maximum number of shares in the series and the distinctive designation;

the terms on which dividends will be paid, if any;

the terms on which the shares may be redeemed, if at all;

the liquidation preference, if any;

the terms of any retirement or sinking fund for the purchase or redemption of the shares of the series;

the terms and conditions, if any, on which the shares of the series will be convertible into, or exchangeable for, shares of any other class or classes of capital stock;

the voting rights, if any, on the shares of the series; and

any or all other preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights or qualifications, limitations or restrictions of the shares.

We will describe the specific terms of a particular series of preferred shares in the prospectus supplement relating to that series. The description of preferred shares above and the description of the terms of a particular series of preferred shares in the prospectus supplement are not complete. You should refer to the applicable articles supplementary for complete information. The prospectus supplement will also contain a

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description of U.S. federal income tax consequences relating to the preferred shares, if material.

Our board could authorize, without shareholder approval, the issuance of preferred shares with terms and conditions that could have the effect of discouraging a takeover or other transaction in which holders of some or a majority of our shares might receive a premium for their shares over the then-prevailing market price of our shares. We currently do not expect that the board would require shareholder approval prior to such a preferred issuance. In addition, any preferred shares that we issue would rank senior to our common shares with respect to the payment of distributions, in which case we could not pay any distributions on our common shares until full distributions have been paid with respect to such preferred shares.

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**Power to Reclassify Shares and Issue Additional Common Shares or Preferred Shares**

Our declaration of trust authorizes our board of trustees to classify any authorized but unissued common and preferred shares and to reclassify any previously classified but unissued common shares and preferred shares of any series from time to time in one or more series, as authorized by the board of trustees. Prior to issuance of shares of each class or series, the board of trustees is required by the Maryland REIT law and our declaration of trust to establish for each such class or series, subject to the provisions of our declaration of trust regarding the restrictions on transfer of shares of beneficial interest, the terms, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends or other distributions, qualifications and terms or conditions of redemption for each such class or series. As a result, our board of trustees could authorize the issuance of preferred shares that have priority over the common shares with respect to dividends, distributions and rights upon liquidation and with other terms and conditions that could have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for holders of common shares or otherwise might be in their best interest.

To permit us increased flexibility in structuring possible future financings and acquisitions and in meeting other needs that might arise, our declaration of trust allows us to issue additional common shares or preferred shares and to classify or reclassify unissued common shares or preferred shares and thereafter to issue the classified or reclassified shares without shareholder approval, unless shareholder approval is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or traded. Although we have no present intention of doing so, we could issue a class or series of shares that could delay, deter or prevent a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for holders of common shares or might otherwise be in their best interests.

Holders of our common shares do not have preemptive rights, which means they have no right to acquire any additional shares that we may issue at a subsequent date.

**Restrictions on Ownership and Transfer**

In order to qualify as a REIT under the Code, our shares must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year. Also, no more than 50% of the value of our outstanding shares (after taking into account options to acquire shares) may be owned, directly, indirectly or through attribution, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain entities).

Because our board of trustees believes that it is in our shareholders' best interests to continue to qualify as a REIT and for anti-takeover and other strategic reasons, our declaration of trust, subject to certain exceptions, contains restrictions on the number of our shares of beneficial interest that a person may own. Our declaration of trust provides that:

no person, other than an excepted holder or a designated investment entity (each as defined in our declaration of trust), may own directly, or be deemed to own by virtue of the attribution provisions of the Code, more than 5%, in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the issued and outstanding shares of any class or series of common shares;

no person may own directly or indirectly, or be deemed to own through attribution, more than 9.8% in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the issued and outstanding shares of any class or series of preferred shares;

no excepted holder, which means certain members of the Amsdell family, certain trusts established for the benefit of members of the Amsdell family and certain related entities, may own directly or indirectly common shares if, under the applicable tax attribution rules of the Code, any single excepted holder who is treated as an individual would own more than 29%, in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of our outstanding common shares, any two excepted holders treated as individuals would own more than 34%, in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of our outstanding common shares, any three excepted holders treated as individuals would own more than 39%, in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of our outstanding common shares, any four



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excepted holders treated as individuals would own more than 44%, in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of our outstanding common shares, or any five excepted holders treated as individuals would own more than 49%, in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of our outstanding common shares;

no designated investment entity may acquire or hold, directly or indirectly (or through attribution), shares in excess of the designated investment entity limit of 9.8%, in value or number of shares, whichever is more restrictive, of the outstanding shares of any class or series of common shares;

no person shall beneficially or constructively own our shares of beneficial interest that would result in us being closely held under Section 856(h) of the Code or otherwise cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT; and

no person shall transfer our shares of beneficial interest if such transfer would result in our shares of beneficial interest being owned by fewer than 100 persons.

The excepted holder limit was established in light of the fact that Robert J. Amsdell, Barry L. Amsdell, Todd C. Amsdell and certain Amsdell Entities owned a substantial percentage of our common shares upon completion of our IPO. The excepted holder limit does not permit each excepted holder to own 29% of our common shares. Rather, the excepted holder limit prevents two or more excepted holders who are each treated as individuals under the applicable tax attribution rules from owning a higher percentage of our common shares than the maximum number of common shares that could be owned by any one excepted holder (29%), plus the maximum number of common shares that could be owned by any one or more other individual common shareholders who are not excepted holders (5%). We do not believe the 29% expected holder limit for certain members of the Amsdell family and certain related entities will jeopardize our REIT status because no other individual shareholder can own more than 5% of the value of our outstanding common shares. Accordingly, no five individuals can own more than 49% of our shares and, thus, we will be in compliance with the REIT qualification requirement prohibiting five or fewer individuals from owning more than 50% of the value of our outstanding shares.

The declaration of trust defines a designated investment entity as:

1. an entity that is a pension trust that qualifies for look-through treatment under Section 856(h)(3) of the Code;
2. an entity that qualifies as a regulated investment company under Section 851 of the Code; or
3. an entity that (i) for compensation engages in the business of advising others as to the value of securities or as to the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling securities; (ii) purchases securities in the ordinary course of its business and not with the purpose or effect of changing or influencing control of us, nor in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect, including any transaction subject to Rule 13d-3(b) of the Exchange Act; and (iii) has or shares voting power and investment power under the Exchange Act;

so long as each beneficial owner of such entity, or in the case of an asset management company, the individual account holders of the accounts managed by such entity, would satisfy the 5% ownership limit if such beneficial owner or account holder owned directly its proportionate share of the shares held by the entity.

Our board of trustees may waive the 5% ownership limit, or the 9.8% designated investment entity limit, for a shareholder that is not an individual if such shareholder provides information and makes representations to the board that are satisfactory to the board, in its reasonable discretion, to establish that such person's ownership in excess of the 5% limit or the 9.8% limit, as applicable, would not jeopardize our qualification as a REIT.

Any person who acquires or attempts or intends to acquire beneficial or constructive ownership of our shares that will or may violate any of the foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership will be required to give notice immediately to us and provide us with such other information as we may request in order to determine the effect of such transfer on our status as a REIT. If any transfer of shares or any other event would otherwise result



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in any person violating the ownership limits described above, then our declaration of trust provides that (a) the transfer will be void and of no force or effect with respect to the prohibited transferee with respect to that number of shares that exceeds the ownership limits or that such number of shares will be automatically transferred to a charitable trust for the benefit of a charitable beneficiary and (b) the prohibited transferee would not acquire any right or interest in the shares. The foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership will not apply if our board of trustees determines that it is no longer in our best interests to attempt to qualify, or to continue to qualify, as a REIT.

All certificates evidencing our shares bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above.

Every owner of more than 5% (or such lower percentage as required by the Code or the regulations promulgated thereunder) of all classes or series of our shares, including common shares, is required to give written notice to us within 30 days after the end of each taxable year stating the name and address of such owner, the number of shares of each class and series of shares that the owner beneficially owns and a description of the manner in which such shares are held. Each such owner shall provide to us such additional information as we may request in order to determine the effect, if any, of such beneficial ownership on our status as a REIT and to ensure compliance with the ownership limitations. In addition, each shareholder shall upon demand be required to provide to us such information as we may request, in good faith, in order to determine our status as a REIT and to comply with the requirements of any taxing authority or governmental authority or to determine such compliance.

These ownership limitations could delay, deter or prevent a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for the common shares or might otherwise be in the best interest of our shareholders.

## **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for our common shares are LaSalle Bank National Association. The transfer agent and registrar for our preferred shares will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

## **Certain Provisions Of Maryland Law And Our Declaration Of Trust And Bylaws**

The following description of certain provisions of Maryland law and of our declaration of trust and bylaws is only a summary. For a complete description, we refer you to the applicable Maryland law, our declaration of trust and bylaws.

### *Number of Trustees; Vacancies*

Our declaration of trust and bylaws provide that the number of our trustees shall not be less than one and not more than 13, and will be established by a vote of a majority of the members of our board of trustees. Currently, we have seven trustees. Our bylaws provide that any vacancy, including a vacancy created by an increase in the number of trustees, may be filled only by a majority of the remaining trustees, even if the remaining trustees do not constitute a quorum. Pursuant to our declaration of trust, each of our trustees is elected by our shareholders to serve until the next annual meeting and until their successors are duly elected and qualify. Under Maryland law, our board may elect to create staggered terms for its members.

Our bylaws provide that at least a majority of our trustees will be independent, with independence being defined in the manner established by our board of trustees and in a manner consistent with listing standards established by the NYSE.

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### *Removal of Trustees*

Our declaration of trust provides that a trustee may be removed only with cause and only upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast in the election of trustees. Absent removal of all of our trustees, this provision, when coupled with the provision in our bylaws authorizing our board of trustees to fill vacant trusteeships, may preclude shareholders from removing incumbent trustees and filling the vacancies created by such removal with their own nominees.

### *Business Combinations*

Our board of trustees has approved a resolution that exempts us from the provisions of the Maryland business combination statute described below, but our board of trustees may opt to make these provisions applicable to us in the future. Maryland law prohibits business combinations between us and an interested shareholder (defined below) or an affiliate of an interested shareholder for five years after the most recent date on which the interested shareholder becomes an interested shareholder. These business combinations include a merger, consolidation, share exchange, or, in circumstances specified in the statute, an asset transfer or issuance or reclassification of equity securities. Maryland law defines an interested shareholder as:

any person who beneficially owns 10% or more of the voting power of our shares; or

an affiliate or associate of ours who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of 10% or more of the voting power of our then outstanding voting shares.

A person is not an interested shareholder if our board of trustees approves in advance the transaction by which the person otherwise would have become an interested shareholder. However, in approving a transaction, our board of trustees may provide that its approval is subject to compliance, at or after the time of approval, with any terms and conditions determined by our board of trustees.

After the five-year prohibition, any business combination between us and an interested shareholder generally must be recommended by our board of trustees and approved by the affirmative vote of at least:

80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of our then outstanding shares of beneficial interest; and

two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of our voting shares other than shares held by the interested shareholder with whom or with whose affiliate the business combination is to be effected or shares held by an affiliate or associate of the interested shareholder.

These super-majority vote requirements do not apply if our common shareholders receive a minimum price, as described under Maryland law, for their shares in the form of cash or other consideration in the same form as previously paid by the interested shareholder for its shares.

The statute permits various exemptions from its provisions, including business combinations that are approved by our board of trustees before the time that the interested shareholder becomes an interested shareholder.

### *Control Share Acquisitions*

Our bylaws contain a provision exempting any and all acquisitions of our shares from the provisions of the Maryland Control Share Acquisition Act. However, our board of trustees may opt to make these provisions applicable to an acquisition of our shares at any time by amending or repealing this provision in the future, and may do so on a retroactive basis. Maryland law provides that control shares of a Maryland REIT acquired in a control share acquisition have no voting rights unless approved by a vote of two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast on the matter. Shares beneficially owned by the acquiring person in a control share acquisition or by our officers or by our employees who are our trustees are excluded from the shares entitled to vote in accordance with the immediately preceding sentence. Control shares are shares that, if aggregated with all other shares previously acquired by the acquiring person, or in respect of which the acquiring person is able to exercise or direct the exercise of voting power (except solely by virtue of a revocable proxy), would entitle the acquiring person to exercise or direct the exercise of the voting power in electing trustees within one of the following ranges of voting power:

one-tenth or more but less than one-third;

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one-third or more but less than a majority; or

a majority or more of all voting power.

Control shares do not include shares the acquiring person is then entitled to vote as a result of having previously obtained shareholder approval. A control share acquisition means the acquisition of control shares, subject to certain exceptions.

A person who has made or proposes to make a control share acquisition may compel our board of trustees to call a special meeting of shareholders to be held within 50 days of demand to consider the voting rights of the shares. The right to compel the calling of a special meeting is subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, including an undertaking to pay the expenses of the special meeting. If no request for a special meeting is made, we may present the question at any shareholders meeting.

If voting rights are not approved at the shareholders meeting or if the acquiring person does not deliver the statement required by Maryland law, then, subject to certain conditions and limitations, we may redeem any or all of the control shares, except those for which voting rights have previously been approved, for fair value. Fair value is determined without regard to the absence of voting rights for the control shares and as of the date of the last control share acquisition or of any meeting of shareholders at which the voting rights of the shares were considered and not approved. If voting rights for control shares are approved at a shareholders meeting, the acquiror may then vote a majority of the shares entitled to vote, and all other shareholders may exercise appraisal rights. The fair value of the shares for purposes of these appraisal rights may not be less than the highest price per share paid by the acquiror in the control share acquisition. The control share acquisition statute does not apply to shares acquired in a merger, consolidation or share exchange if we are a party to the transaction, nor does it apply to acquisitions approved by or exempted by our declaration of trust or bylaws.

### **Possible Anti-Takeover Effect of Certain Provisions of Maryland Law, Our Declaration of Trust and Bylaws**

The business combination provisions of Maryland law (if our board of trustees opts to make them applicable to us), the control share acquisition provisions of Maryland law (if the applicable provision in our bylaws is rescinded), the limitations on removal of trustees, the restrictions on the acquisition of our shares of beneficial interest, the power to issue additional common shares or preferred shares and the advance notice provisions for shareholder trustee nominations and other shareholder proposals of our bylaws could have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a transaction or a change in control that might involve a premium price for holders of the common shares or might otherwise be in their best interest. The unsolicited takeovers provisions of Maryland law permit our board of trustees, without shareholder approval and regardless of what is provided in our declaration of trust or bylaws, to implement takeover defenses that we may not yet have.

## **DEPOSITARY SHARES**

### **General**

We may elect to have shares of preferred shares represented by depositary shares. The shares of any series of the preferred shares underlying the depositary shares will be deposited under a separate deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company that we select. The prospectus supplement relating to a series of depositary shares will set forth the name and address of this preferred shares depositary. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, proportionately, to all the rights, preferences and privileges of the preferred shares represented by such depositary share, including dividend, voting, redemption, conversion, exchange and liquidation rights. As of the date of this prospectus, there are no depositary shares outstanding.

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The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued pursuant to the deposit agreement, each of which will represent the applicable interest in a number of shares of a particular series of the preferred shares described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

A holder of depositary shares will be entitled to receive the shares of preferred shares, but only in whole shares of preferred shares, underlying those depositary shares. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the whole number of shares of preferred shares to be withdrawn, the depositary will deliver to that holder at the same time a new depositary receipt for the excess number of depositary shares.

## **Dividends and Other Distributions**

The preferred shares depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions in respect of the series of preferred shares represented by the depositary shares to the record holders of depositary receipts in proportion, to the extent possible, to the number of depositary shares owned by those holders. The depositary, however, will distribute only the amount that can be distributed without attributing to any depositary share a fraction of one cent, and any undistributed balance will be added to and treated as part of the next sum received by the depositary for distribution to record holders of depositary receipts then outstanding.

If there is a distribution other than in cash in respect of the preferred shares, the preferred shares depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of depositary receipts in proportion, insofar as possible, to the number of depositary shares owned by those holders, unless the preferred shares depositary determines that it is not feasible to make such a distribution. In that case, the preferred shares depositary may, with our approval, adopt any method that it deems equitable and practicable to effect the distribution, including a public or private sale of the property and distribution of the net proceeds from the sale to the holders.

The amount distributed in any of the above cases will be reduced by any amount we or the preferred shares depositary are required to withhold on account of taxes.

## **Conversion and Exchange**

If any series of preferred shares underlying the depositary shares is subject to provisions relating to its conversion or exchange as set forth in an applicable prospectus supplement, each record holder of depositary receipts will have the right or obligation to convert or exchange the depositary shares evidenced by the depositary receipts pursuant to those provisions.

## **Redemption of Depositary Shares**

If any series of preferred shares underlying the depositary shares is subject to redemption, the depositary shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the preferred shares depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of the preferred shares held by the preferred shares depositary. Whenever we redeem a share of preferred shares held by the preferred shares depositary, the preferred shares depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date a proportionate number of depositary shares representing the shares of preferred shares that were redeemed. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the aggregate redemption price payable with respect to the number of shares of preferred shares underlying the depositary shares. If fewer than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot or proportionately as we may determine.

After the date fixed for redemption, the depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be deemed to be outstanding and all rights of the holders of the depositary shares will cease, except the right to receive the redemption price. Any funds that we deposit with the preferred shares depositary relating to depositary shares which are not redeemed by the holders of the depositary shares will be returned to us after a period of two years from the date the funds are deposited by us.

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### **Voting**

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of any shares of preferred shares underlying the depositary shares are entitled to vote, the preferred shares depositary will mail the information contained in the notice to the record holders of the depositary receipts. Each record holder of the depositary receipts on the record date, which will be the same date as the record date for the preferred shares, may then instruct the preferred shares depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the number of shares of preferred shares underlying that holder's depositary shares. The preferred shares depositary will try to vote the number of shares of preferred shares underlying the depositary shares in accordance with the instructions, and we will agree to take all reasonable action which the preferred shares depositary deems necessary to enable the preferred shares depositary to do so. The preferred shares depositary will abstain from voting the preferred shares to the extent that it does not receive specific written instructions from holders of depositary receipts representing the preferred shares.

### **Record Date**

Subject to the provisions of the deposit agreement, whenever

any cash dividend or other cash distribution becomes payable,

any distribution other than cash is made,

any rights, preferences or privileges are offered with respect to the preferred shares,

the preferred shares depositary receives notice of any meeting at which holders of preferred shares are entitled to vote or of which holders of preferred shares are entitled to notice, or

the preferred shares depositary receives notice of the mandatory conversion of or any election by us to call for the redemption of any preferred shares,

the preferred shares depositary will in each instance fix a record date, which will be the same as the record date for the preferred shares, for the determination of the holders of depositary receipts:

who will be entitled to receive dividend, distribution, rights, preferences or privileges or the net proceeds of any sale, or

who will be entitled to give instructions for the exercise of voting rights at any such meeting or to receive notice of the meeting or the redemption or conversion.

### **Withdrawal of Preferred Shares**

Upon surrender of depositary receipts at the principal office of the preferred shares depositary, upon payment of any unpaid amount due the preferred shares depositary, and subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, the owner of the depositary shares evidenced by the depositary receipts is entitled to delivery of the number of whole shares of preferred shares and all money and other property, if any, represented by the depositary shares. Partial shares of preferred shares will not be issued. If the depositary receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of depositary shares in excess of the number of depositary shares representing the number of whole shares of preferred shares to be withdrawn, the preferred shares depositary will deliver to the holder at the same time a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares. Holders of preferred shares that are withdrawn will not be entitled to deposit the shares that have been withdrawn under the deposit agreement or to receive depositary receipts.

### **Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement**



## Edgar Filing: U-Store-It Trust - Form S-3ASR

We and the preferred shares depositary may at any time agree to amend the form of depositary receipt and any provision of the deposit agreement. However, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of

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holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless the amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. The deposit agreement may be terminated by us or by the preferred shares depositary only if all outstanding shares have been redeemed or if a final distribution in respect of the underlying preferred shares has been made to the holders of the depositary shares in connection with our liquidation, dissolution or winding up.

### **Charges of Preferred Shares Depositary**

We will pay all charges of the preferred shares depositary including charges in connection with the initial deposit of the preferred shares, the initial issuance of the depositary receipts, the distribution of information to the holders of depositary receipts with respect to matters on which preference stock is entitled to vote, withdrawals of the preferred shares by the holders of depositary receipts or redemption or conversion of the preferred shares, except for taxes (including transfer taxes, if any) and other governmental charges and any other charges expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be at the expense of holders of depositary receipts or persons depositing preferred shares.

### **Miscellaneous**

Neither we nor the preferred shares depositary will be liable if either of us is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond our control in performing any obligations under the deposit agreement. The obligations of the preferred shares depositary under the deposit agreement are limited to performing its duties under the agreement without negligence or bad faith. Our obligations under the deposit agreement are limited to performing our duties in good faith. Neither we nor the preferred shares depositary is obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or preferred shares unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the preferred shares depositary may rely on advice of or information from counsel, accountants or other persons that they believe to be competent and on documents that they believe to be genuine.

The preferred shares depositary may resign at any time or be removed by us, effective upon the acceptance by its successor of its appointment. If we have not appointed a successor preferred shares depositary and the successor depositary has not accepted its appointment within 60 days after the preferred shares depositary delivered a resignation notice to us, the preferred shares depositary may terminate the deposit agreement. See Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement above.

## **DEBT SECURITIES**

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplements, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any future debt securities we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. If we indicate in a prospectus supplement, the terms of any debt securities we offer under that prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below.

The debt securities will be our direct unsecured general obligations and may include debentures, notes, bonds and/or other evidences of indebtedness. The debt securities will be issued under one or more indentures. The indenture will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act.

The following summaries of material provisions of the debt securities and indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities.

### **General**

We will describe in each prospectus supplement the following terms relating to a series of debt securities: