

STARWOOD PROPERTY TRUST, INC.
Form S-8
March 05, 2015

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 5, 2015

Registration No. 333-

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE
SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

Starwood Property Trust, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

27-0247747
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

**591 West Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, Connecticut**
(Address of principal executive offices)

06830
(Zip code)

Starwood Property Trust, Inc. Equity Plan

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(Full title of the plan)

Andrew J. Sossen
Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel
Starwood Property Trust, Inc.
591 West Putnam Avenue
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830
(203) 422-7700

(Name and address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

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 definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered(1)	Proposed maximum offering price per share(2)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price(2)	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share	3,812,542	\$ 24.30	\$ 92,644,770.60	\$ 10,765.32

(1) This registration statement covers 3,812,542 shares of Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the Common Stock), of Starwood Property Trust, Inc. (the Company), issuable under the Starwood Property Trust, Inc. Equity Plan (the Plan). Pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), this registration statement also covers an additional indeterminate amount of shares as may become issuable by reason of stock dividends, stock splits or similar transactions.

(2) Estimated solely for the purposes of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(h) of the Securities Act, the maximum offering price, per share and in the aggregate, are based upon the average of the high and low prices of the Common Stock on March 4, 2015 as quoted on the New York Stock Exchange.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

Item 1. *Plan Information.**

Item 2. *Registrant Information and Employee Plan Annual Information.**

* The documents containing the information specified in this Part I will be sent or given to employees as specified by Rule 428(b)(1) of the Securities Act. Such documents need not be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) either as part of this registration statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424 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, taken together, constitute a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. *Incorporation of Documents by Reference.*

The following documents previously filed by the Company with the SEC are incorporated by reference in this registration statement: Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, filed with the SEC on February 25, 2015, and the description of our common stock included in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed on August 7, 2009.

All documents subsequently filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment to this registration statement which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this registration statement and to be part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this registration statement to the extent that a statement contained in this registration statement, or in any other subsequently filed document that also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference in this registration statement, modifies or supersedes such prior statement. Any statement contained in this registration statement shall be deemed to be modified or superseded to the

extent that a statement contained in a subsequently filed document that is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference in this registration statement modifies or supersedes such prior statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this registration statement.

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 (1) actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services or (2) active and deliberate dishonesty established by a final judgment as being material to the cause of action. Our charter contains such a provision that eliminates such liability to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

The Maryland General Corporation Law, as amended from time to time (the MGCL) requires a Maryland corporation (unless its charter provides otherwise, which the Company's 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 is made or threatened to be made a party by reason of his or her service in that capacity. The MGCL permits a 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 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 (1) was committed in bad faith or (2) 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 in a suit by or in the right of the corporation in which the director or officer was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received. A court may order indemnification if it determines that the director or officer is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnification, even though the director or officer did not meet the prescribed standard of conduct or was adjudged liable on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received. However, indemnification for an adverse judgment in a suit by us or in our right, or for a judgment of liability on the basis that personal benefit was improperly received, is limited to expenses.

In addition, the MGCL permits a corporation to advance reasonable expenses to a director or officer 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.

The Company's charter authorizes it, and the Company's bylaws obligate it, to the fullest extent permitted by Maryland law in effect from time to time, to indemnify and, without requiring a preliminary determination of the ultimate entitlement to indemnification, pay or reimburse reasonable expenses in advance of final disposition of a proceeding 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 a director of the Company and at the Company's request, serves or has served another corporation, REIT, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or any other enterprise as a director, officer, partner or trustee of such corporation, REIT, 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.

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The Company's charter and bylaws also permit it to indemnify and advance expenses to any person who served a predecessor of the Company in any of the capacities described above and to any personnel or agent of the Company or a predecessor of the Company.

Additionally, the Company has entered into indemnification agreements with each of its directors and executive officers that provide for indemnification to the maximum extent permitted by Maryland law.

Item 7. *Exemption from Registration Claimed.*

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	Description
4.1	Articles of Amendment and Restatement of Starwood Property Trust, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed November 16, 2009)
4.2	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Starwood Property Trust, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 17, 2014)
4.3	Starwood Property Trust, Inc. Equity Plan (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.9 of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed November 16, 2009)
4.4	First Amendment to the Starwood Property Trust, Inc. Equity Plan (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed May 6, 2013)
5.1	Legal Opinion of Foley & Lardner LLP
23.1	Consent of Foley & Lardner LLP (contained in its opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1)
23.2	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP
24.1	Power of Attorney (contained in signature page to this registration statement)

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 the 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 SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent 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) of this section do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC 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 SEC 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, 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 the City of Greenwich, State of Connecticut, on March 5, 2015.

Starwood Property Trust, Inc.

By: /s/ Barry S. Sternlicht
 Name: Barry S. Sternlicht
 Title: Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Barry S. Sternlicht and Rina Paniry, and each of them, acting individually and without the other, as his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place, and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments, exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith) to this registration statement, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the SEC, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or either of them individually, or their or his or her substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

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

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ Barry S. Sternlicht Barry S. Sternlicht	Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	March 5, 2015
/s/ Rina Paniry Rina Paniry	Chief Financial Officer and Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	March 5, 2015
/s/ Richard D. Bronson Richard D. Bronson	Lead Director	March 5, 2015
/s/ Jeffrey G. Dishner Jeffrey G. Dishner	Director	March 5, 2015
/s/ Camille J. Douglas Camille J. Douglas	Director	March 5, 2015
/s/ Solomon J. Kumin Solomon J. Kumin	Director	March 5, 2015

/s/ Strauss Zelnick
Strauss Zelnick

Director

March 5, 2015

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