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New Residential Investment Corp.
Form 10-K
February 19, 2019
UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

x ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____
Commission File Number: 001-35777

New Residential Investment Corp.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 45-3449660
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

(212) 798-3150
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A
(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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

Title of each class: Name of each exchange on which registered:

Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

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

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

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Emerging growth company

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

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

The aggregate market value of the common stock held by non-affiliates as of June 30, 2018 (computed based on the closing price on such date as reported on the NYSE) was: \$4.7 billion.

Common stock, \$0.01 par value per share: 369,132,581 shares outstanding as of February 15, 2019.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The information required by Part III (Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14) will be incorporated by reference from the registrant's Definitive Proxy Statement for its 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to Regulation 14A.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This report contains certain “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which statements involve substantial risks and uncertainties. Such forward-looking statements relate to, among other things, the operating performance of our investments, the stability of our earnings, our financing needs and the size and attractiveness of market opportunities. Forward-looking statements are generally identifiable by use of forward-looking terminology such as “may,” “will,” “should,” “potential,” “intend,” “expect,” “endeavor,” “seek,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “overestimate,” “underestimate,” “believe,” “could,” “project,” “predict,” “continue” or other similar terms or expressions. Forward-looking statements are based on certain assumptions, discuss future expectations, describe future plans and strategies, contain projections of results of operations, cash flows or financial condition or state other forward-looking information. Our ability to predict results or the actual outcome of future plans or strategies is inherently uncertain. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, our actual results and performance could differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause our actual results in future periods to differ materially from forecasted results. Factors which could have a material adverse effect on our operations and future prospects include, but are not limited to:

- reductions in the value of, or cash flows received from, our investments;
- the quality and size of the investment pipeline and our ability to take advantage of investment opportunities at attractive risk-adjusted prices;
- the relationship between yields on assets which are paid off and yields on assets in which such monies can be reinvested;
- our ability to deploy capital accretively and the timing of such deployment;
- our counterparty concentration and default risks in Nationstar, Ocwen, OneMain, Ditech, PHH and other third parties;
- events, conditions or actions that might occur at Nationstar, Ocwen, OneMain, Ditech, PHH and other third parties, as well as the continued effect of prior events;
- a lack of liquidity surrounding our investments, which could impede our ability to vary our portfolio in an appropriate manner;
- the impact that risks associated with subprime mortgage loans and consumer loans, as well as deficiencies in servicing and foreclosure practices, may have on the value of our mortgage servicing rights (“MSRs”), Excess MSRs, Servicer Advance Investments, RMBS, residential mortgage loans and consumer loan portfolios;
- the risks related to our acquisition of Shellpoint Partners LLC and ownership of entities that perform origination and servicing operations;
- the risks that default and recovery rates on our MSRs, Excess MSRs, Servicer Advance Investments, residential mortgage-backed securities (“RMBS”), residential mortgage loans and consumer loans deteriorate compared to our underwriting estimates;
- changes in prepayment rates on the loans underlying certain of our assets, including, but not limited to, our MSRs or Excess MSRs;
- the risk that projected recapture rates on the loan pools underlying our MSRs or Excess MSRs are not achieved;
- servicer advances may not be recoverable or may take longer to recover than we expect, which could cause us to fail to achieve our targeted return on our Servicer Advance Investments or MSRs;
- impairments in the value of the collateral underlying our investments and the relation of any such impairments to our judgments as to whether changes in the market value of our securities or loans are temporary or not and whether circumstances bearing on the value of such assets warrant changes in carrying values;
- the relative spreads between the yield on the assets in which we invest and the cost of financing;
- adverse changes in the financing markets we access affecting our ability to finance our investments on attractive terms, or at all;
- changing risk assessments by lenders that potentially lead to increased margin calls, not extending our repurchase agreements or other financings in accordance with their current terms or not entering into new financings with us;
-

changes in interest rates and/or credit spreads, as well as the success of any hedging strategy we may undertake in relation to such changes;
the availability and terms of capital for future investments;

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- changes in economic conditions generally and the real estate and bond markets specifically;
- competition within the finance and real estate industries;
- the legislative/regulatory environment, including, but not limited to, the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act, U.S. government programs intended to grow the economy, future changes to tax laws, the federal conservatorship of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and legislation that permits modification of the terms of residential mortgage loans;
- the risk that Government Sponsored Enterprises (“GSE”) or other regulatory initiatives or actions may adversely affect returns from investments in MSRs and Excess MSRs;
- our ability to maintain our qualification as a real estate investment trust (“REIT”) for U.S. federal income tax purposes and the potentially onerous consequences that any failure to maintain such qualification would have on our business;
- our ability to maintain our exclusion from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “1940 Act”) and the fact that maintaining such exclusion imposes limits on our operations;
- the risks related to Home Loan Servicing Solutions (“HLSS”) liabilities that we have assumed;
- the impact of current or future legal proceedings and regulatory investigations and inquiries;
- the impact of any material transactions with FIG LLC (the “Manager”) or one of its affiliates, including the impact of any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest; and
- effects of the completed merger of Fortress Investment Group LLC with affiliates of SoftBank Group Corp.

We also direct readers to other risks and uncertainties referenced in this report, including those set forth under “Risk Factors.” We caution that you should not place undue reliance on any of our forward-looking statements. Further, any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made. New risks and uncertainties arise from time to time, and it is impossible for us to predict those events or how they may affect us. Except as required by law, we are under no obligation (and expressly disclaim any obligation) to update or alter any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, that we may make from time to time, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING EXHIBITS

In reviewing the agreements included as exhibits to this Annual Report on Form 10-K, please remember they are included to provide you with information regarding their terms and are not intended to provide any other factual or disclosure information about New Residential Investment Corp. (the “Company,” “New Residential” or “we,” “our” and “us”) the other parties to the agreements. The agreements contain representations and warranties by each of the parties to the applicable agreement. These representations and warranties have been made solely for the benefit of the other parties to the applicable agreement and:

- should not in all instances be treated as categorical statements of fact, but rather as a way of allocating the risk to one of the parties if those statements proved to be inaccurate;
- have been qualified by disclosures that were made to the other party in connection with the negotiation of the applicable agreement, which disclosures are not necessarily reflected in the agreement;
- may apply standards of materiality in a way that is different from what may be viewed as material to you or other investors; and
- were made only as of the date of the applicable agreement or such other date or dates as may be specified in the agreement and are subject to more recent developments.

Accordingly, these representations and warranties may not describe the actual state of affairs as of the date they were made or at any other time. Additional information about the Company may be found elsewhere in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and the Company’s other public filings, which are available without charge through the SEC’s website at <http://www.sec.gov>. See “Business—Corporate Governance and Internet Address; Where Readers Can Find Additional Information.”

The Company acknowledges that, notwithstanding the inclusion of the foregoing cautionary statements, it is responsible for considering whether additional specific disclosures of material information regarding material contractual provisions are required to make the statements in this report not misleading.

NEW RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT CORP.
FORM 10-K

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PART I

Item 1. Business.

General

New Residential is a publicly traded real estate investment trust (“REIT”) primarily focused on opportunistically investing in, and actively managing, investments related to residential real estate. We were formed as a wholly owned subsidiary of Drive Shack Inc. (formerly Newcastle Investment Corp., “Drive Shack”) in September 2011 and were spun-off from Drive Shack on May 15, 2013, which we refer to as the “distribution date.” Our stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol “NRZ.” We are externally managed and advised by an affiliate (our “Manager”) of Fortress Investment Group LLC (“Fortress”) pursuant to a management agreement (the “Management Agreement”). In 2016, our wholly-owned subsidiary, New Residential Mortgage LLC (“NRM”), became a licensed or otherwise eligible mortgage servicer.

We seek to drive strong risk-adjusted returns primarily through investments in the U.S. residential real estate market, which at times incorporate the use of leverage. We generally target assets that generate significant current cash flows and/or have the potential for meaningful capital appreciation. Our investment guidelines are purposefully broad to enable us to make investments in a wide array of assets in diverse markets, including non-real estate related assets such as consumer loans. We expect our asset allocation and target assets to change over time depending on the types of investments our Manager identifies and the investment decisions our Manager makes in light of prevailing market conditions. For more information about our investment guidelines, see “—Investment Guidelines.” On December 27, 2017, SoftBank Group Corp. (“SoftBank”) announced that it completed its previously announced acquisition of Fortress (the “SoftBank Merger”). In connection with the SoftBank Merger, Fortress operates within SoftBank as an independent business headquartered in New York. Fortress’s senior investment professionals will remain in place, including those individuals who perform services for New Residential.

Our portfolio is currently composed of mortgage servicing and origination related assets, residential securities (and associated call rights) and loans and other opportunistic investments. For more details on our portfolio, see “—Our Portfolio” below, as well as “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Our Portfolio.” For information concerning current market trends which impact our portfolio, see “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Market Considerations” and “Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.”

The Residential Real Estate Market

The residential mortgage industry is transforming the way mortgages are originated, owned and serviced. We believe significant investment opportunities exist in today’s complex and dynamic mortgage market. As a major capital provider to the mortgage servicing industry, we believe we are one of only a select number of market participants that have the combination of capital, industry expertise and key business relationships that are necessary to take advantage of these opportunities.

The U.S. residential real estate market is vast: The value of the housing market totaled approximately \$33.3 trillion as of September 2018, including about \$10.8 trillion of single-family mortgage debt outstanding, according to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Over the last few decades the complexity of the market for residential mortgage loans in the U.S. has dramatically increased. A borrower seeking credit for a home purchase will typically obtain financing from a financial institution, such as a bank, savings association or credit union. In the past, these institutions would generally have held a majority of their originated residential mortgage loans as interest-earning assets on their balance sheets and would have

performed all activities associated with servicing the loans, including accepting principal and interest payments, making advances for real estate taxes and property and casualty insurance premiums, initiating collection actions for delinquent payments and conducting foreclosures.

Now, institutions that originate residential mortgage loans generally hold a smaller portion of such loans as assets on their balance sheets and instead sell a significant portion of the loans they originate to third parties. GSEs (defined below) are currently the largest purchasers of residential mortgage loans. Under a process known as securitization, GSEs and financial institutions typically package residential mortgage loans into pools that are sold to securitization trusts. These securitization trusts fund the acquisition of residential mortgage loans by issuing securities, known as residential mortgage backed securities ("RMBS"), which entitle the owner of such securities to receive a portion of the interest and/or principal collected on the residential mortgage loans in the pool. The purchasers of the RMBS are typically large institutions, such as pension funds, mutual funds, insurance companies, hedge funds and REITs. The agreement that governs the packaging of residential mortgage loans into a pool, the servicing of such residential mortgage loans and the terms of the RMBS issued by the securitization trust is often referred to as a pooling and servicing agreement.

As of the third quarter of 2018, approximately \$8.0 trillion of the \$10.8 trillion of one-to-four family residential mortgages outstanding had been securitized, according to Inside Mortgage Finance. Approximately \$7.2 trillion were Agency RMBS according to Inside Mortgage Finance, and the balance were Non-Agency RMBS.

In the ten years prior to the credit dislocation in 2007, the securitization market drove an increase in the number of residential mortgage loans outstanding. Since 2007, the mortgage industry has been characterized by reduced origination and securitization activities, particularly for subprime and Alt-A mortgage loans. However, origination volume in recent years has been relatively robust. In 2018, according to Inside Mortgage Finance, first lien mortgage loan origination totaled approximately \$1.6 trillion, a slight decline from 2017 but up approximately 23% compared to full year 2014. In addition, non-qualifying mortgage (“Non-QM”) origination and securitization volume has grown nearly 300% from 2017 to 2018 and is projected to grow by 400% in 2019. The role of private capital has increased in financing the mortgage origination process despite the GSEs’ presence as the largest purchasers of residential mortgage loans.

In connection with a securitization, a number of entities perform specific roles with respect to the residential mortgage loans in a pool, including the trustee and the mortgage servicer. The trustee holds legal title to the residential mortgage loans on behalf of the owner of the RMBS and either maintains the mortgage note and related documents itself or with a custodian. One or more other entities are appointed pursuant to the pooling and servicing agreement to service the residential mortgage loans. In some cases, the servicer is the same institution that originated the loan, and, in other cases, it may be a different institution. The duties of servicers for residential mortgage loans that have been securitized are generally required to be performed in accordance with industry-accepted servicing practices and the terms of the relevant pooling and servicing agreement, mortgage note and applicable law. A servicer generally takes actions, such as foreclosure, in the name and on behalf of the trustee. The trustee or a separate securities administrator for the trust receives the payments collected by the servicer on the residential mortgage loans and distributes them to the investors in the RMBS pursuant to the terms of the pooling and servicing agreement.

Following the credit crisis, the need for “high-touch” non-bank specialty servicers increased as loan performance declined, delinquencies rose and servicing complexities broadened. Specialty servicers have proven more willing and better equipped to perform the operationally intensive activities (e.g., collections, foreclosure avoidance and loan workouts) required to service credit-sensitive loans.

The Residential Mortgage Loan Market

Residential mortgage loans are classified based on certain payment characteristics. Performing loans are residential mortgage loans where the borrower is generally current on required payments; by contrast, non-performing loans are residential mortgage loans where the borrower is delinquent or in default. Re-performing loans were formally non-performing but became performing again, often as a result of a loan modification where the lender agrees to modified terms with the borrower rather than foreclosing on the underlying property. Reverse mortgage loans are a special type of loan under which the borrower is typically paid a monthly amount, increasing the balance of the loan, and are typically collected when the property is sold or the borrower no longer resides at the property. If a borrower defaults on a loan and the lender takes ownership of the underlying property through foreclosure, that property is referred to as real estate owned (“REO”).

The residential mortgage loan market is commonly further divided into a number of categories based on certain residential mortgage loan characteristics, including the credit quality of borrowers and the types of institutions that originate or finance such loans. While there are no universally accepted definitions, the residential mortgage loan market is commonly divided by market participants into the following categories.

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Government-Sponsored Enterprise and Government Guaranteed Loans. This category of residential mortgage loans includes “conforming loans,” which are first lien residential mortgage loans that are secured by single-family residences that meet or “conform” to the underwriting standards established by the Federal National Mortgage Association (“Fannie Mae”) or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“Freddie Mac,” and collectively with Fannie Mae, the “GSEs”). The conforming loan limit is established by statute and currently is \$453,100 with certain exceptions for high-priced real estate markets. This category also includes residential mortgage loans issued to borrowers that do not meet conforming loan standards, but who qualify for a loan that is insured or guaranteed by the government through the Government National Mortgage Association (“Ginnie Mae” and, collectively with the GSEs, the “Agencies” (with each of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Ginnie Mae an “Agency”)), primarily through federal programs operated by the Federal Housing Administration (“FHA”) and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Non-GSE or Government Guaranteed Loans. Residential mortgage loans that are not guaranteed by the GSEs or the government are generally referred to as “non-conforming loans” and fall into one of the following categories: jumbo, subprime, Alt-A, second lien or non-qualifying loans. The loans may be non-conforming due to various factors, including

mortgage balances in excess of Agency underwriting guidelines, borrower characteristics, loan characteristics and level of documentation.

Jumbo. Jumbo mortgage loans have original principal amounts that exceed the statutory conforming limit for GSE loans. Jumbo borrowers generally have strong credit histories and provide full loan documentation, including verification of income and assets.

Subprime. Subprime mortgage loans are generally issued to borrowers with weak credit histories, who make low or no down payments on the properties they purchase or have limited documentation of their income or assets. Subprime borrowers generally pay higher interest rates and fees than prime borrowers.

Alt-A. Alt-A mortgage loans are generally issued to borrowers with risk profiles that fall between prime and subprime. These loans have one or more high-risk features, such as the borrower having a high debt-to-income ratio, limited documentation verifying the borrower's income or assets, or the option of making monthly payments that are lower than required for a fully amortizing loan. Alt-A mortgage loans generally have interest rates that fall between the interest rates on conforming loans and subprime loans.

Second Lien. Second mortgages and home equity lines are often referred to as second liens and fall into a separate category of the residential mortgage market. These loans typically have higher interest rates than loans secured by first liens because the lender generally will only receive proceeds from a foreclosure of a property after the first lien holder is paid in full. In addition, these loans often feature higher loan-to-value ratios and are less secure than first lien mortgages.

Non-QM. Non-QM loans are loans that do not meet the Qualified Mortgage rules per the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. These loans commonly have features including, but not limited to, debt-to-income ratios exceeding 43%, interest only payment terms, loan terms exceeding 30 years and ability to repay based on stated income and asset verification. Non-QM loans are generally issued to borrowers that are self-employed, have high debt-to-income ratio or have high net worth with liquid assets.

Servicing Related Assets

MSRs, Mortgage Servicing Rights Financing Receivables and Excess MSRs

A mortgage servicing right ("MSR") provides a mortgage servicer with the right to service a pool of residential mortgage loans in exchange for a portion of the interest payments made on the underlying residential mortgage loans. This amount typically ranges from 25 to 50 basis points ("bps") times the unpaid principal balance ("UPB") of the residential mortgage loans, plus ancillary income and custodial interest. An MSR is made up of two components: a basic fee and an excess MSR ("Excess MSR"). The basic fee is the amount of compensation for the performance of servicing duties (including advance obligations), and the Excess MSR is the amount that exceeds the basic fee. Ownership of an MSR requires the owner to be a licensed mortgage servicer. An owner of an Excess MSR is not required to be licensed, and is not required to assume any servicing duties, advance obligations or liabilities associated with the loan pool underlying the MSR unless otherwise specified through agreement.

Servicer Advances Receivable and Servicer Advance Investments

Servicer advances are a customary feature of residential mortgage securitization transactions and represent one of the duties for which a servicer is compensated through the basic fee component of the related MSR, since the advances are non-interest bearing. Servicer advances are generally reimbursable cash payments made by a servicer (i) when the borrower fails to make scheduled payments due on a residential mortgage loan or (ii) to support the value of the collateral property. Our interests in servicer advances include the following:

Servicer Advances Receivable. The outstanding Servicer Advances related to a specified pool of mortgage loans.

Servicer Advance Investments. These investments are associated with specified pools of mortgage loans and include the related outstanding servicer advances, the requirement to purchase future servicer advances and the rights to the

basic fee component of the related MSR. We have purchased Servicer Advance Investments on certain loan pools underlying our Excess MSRs.

Servicer advances typically fall into one of three categories:

Principal and Interest Advances: Cash payments made by the servicer to cover scheduled payments of principal of, and interest on, a residential mortgage loan that have not been paid on a timely basis by the borrower.

Escrow Advances (Taxes and Insurance Advances): Cash payments made by the servicer to third parties on behalf of the borrower for real estate taxes and insurance premiums on the property that have not been paid on a timely basis by the borrower.

Foreclosure Advances: Cash payments made by the servicer to third parties for the costs and expenses incurred in connection with the foreclosure, preservation and sale of the mortgaged property, including attorneys' and other professional fees.

The purpose of the advances is to provide liquidity, rather than credit enhancement, to the underlying residential mortgage securitization transaction. Servicer advances are generally permitted to be repaid from amounts received with respect to the related residential mortgage loan, including payments from the borrower or amounts received from the liquidation of the property securing the loan, which is referred to as "loan-level recovery."

Residential mortgage servicing agreements generally require a servicer to make advances in respect of serviced residential mortgage loans unless the servicer determines in good faith that the advance would not be ultimately recoverable from the proceeds of the related residential mortgage loan or the mortgaged property. In many cases, if the servicer determines that an advance previously made would not be recoverable from these sources, or if such advance is not recovered when the loan is repaid or related property is liquidated, then, the servicer is, most often, entitled to withdraw funds from the trustee custodial account for payments on the serviced residential mortgage loans to reimburse the applicable advance. This is what is often referred to as a "general collections backstop." Under certain circumstances, a servicer may also be reimbursed for an otherwise unrecoverable advance by a GSE, with respect to loans in Agency RMBS (defined below). See "Risk Factors—Risks Related to Our Business—Servicer advances may not be recoverable or may take longer to recover than we expect, which could cause us to fail to achieve our targeted return on our Servicer Advance Investments or MSRs."

The status of our interests in servicer advances for purposes of the REIT requirements is uncertain, and therefore our ability to acquire servicer advances may be limited. We currently hold our interests in servicer advances in taxable REIT subsidiaries.

We also purchase rated bonds backed by securitized pools of servicer advances issued through transactions sponsored by mortgage servicers. Servicer advance securitizations are generally rated "Master Trust" structures with multiple series of notes and one or more variable funding notes sharing in the same pool of collateral. Each note class has a specific advance rate and rating. We may pursue similar investments as opportunities arise.

Residential Securities and Loans

RMBS

Residential mortgage loans are often packaged into pools held in securitization entities which issue securities (RMBS) collateralized by such loans. Agency RMBS are RMBS issued or guaranteed by an Agency. "Non-Agency" RMBS are issued by either public trusts or private label securitization ("PLS") entities. We invest in both Agency RMBS and Non-Agency RMBS.

Agency RMBS generally offer more stable cash flows and historically have been subject to lower credit risk and greater price stability than the other types of residential mortgage investments we intend to target. The Agency RMBS that we may acquire could be secured by fixed-rate mortgages, adjustable-rate mortgages or hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages. More information about certain types of Agency RMBS in which we have invested or may invest is set forth below.

Mortgage pass-through certificates. Mortgage pass-through certificates are securities representing interests in "pools" of residential mortgage loans secured by residential real property where payments of both interest and principal, plus pre-paid principal, on the securities are made monthly to holders of the securities, in effect "passing through" monthly payments made by the individual borrowers on the residential mortgage loans that underlie the securities, net of fees paid in connection with the issuance of the securities and the servicing of the underlying residential mortgage loans.

Interest Only Agency RMBS. This type of stripped security only entitles the holder to interest payments. The yield to maturity of interest only Agency RMBS is extremely sensitive to the rate of principal payments (particularly prepayments) on the underlying pool of residential mortgage loans. If we decide to invest in these types of securities, we anticipate doing so primarily to take advantage of particularly attractive prepayment-related or structural opportunities in the Agency RMBS markets.

To-be-announced forward contract positions (“TBAs”). We utilize TBAs in order to invest in Agency RMBS. Pursuant to these TBAs, we agree to purchase or sell, for future delivery, Agency RMBS with certain principal and interest terms and certain types of underlying collateral, but the particular Agency RMBS to be delivered would not be identified until shortly before the TBA settlement date. Our ability to purchase Agency RMBS through TBAs may be limited by the 75% income and asset tests applicable to REITs.

Specified RMBS (“Specified Pools”). Specified Pools are pools created with loans that have similar characteristics such as loan balance, FICO, coupon and prepayment protection. We invest in these securities to take advantage of particularly attractive prepayment-related or structural opportunities in the Agency RMBS markets.

The Non-Agency RMBS we may acquire could be secured by fixed-rate mortgages, adjustable-rate mortgages or hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages. The residential mortgage loan collateral may be classified as “conforming” or “non-conforming,” depending on a variety of factors.

RMBS, and in particular Non-Agency RMBS, may be subject to call rights, commonly referred to as “cleanup call rights.” Call rights permit the holder of the rights to purchase all of the residential mortgage loans which are collateralizing the related securitization for a price generally equal to the outstanding balance of such loans plus interest and certain other amounts (such as outstanding servicer advances and unpaid servicing fees). Call rights may be subject to limitations with respect to when they may be exercised (such as specific dates or upon the reduction of the outstanding balances of the remaining residential mortgage loans to a specified level). Call rights generally become exercisable when the current principal balance of the underlying residential mortgage loans is equal to or lower than 10% of their original balance.

We believe that in many Non-Agency RMBS vehicles there is a meaningful discrepancy between the value of the Non-Agency RMBS and the recovery value of the underlying collateral. We pursue opportunities in structured transactions that enable us to realize identified excesses of collateral value over related RMBS value, particularly through the acquisition and execution of call rights. We control the call rights on Non-Agency deals with a total UPB of approximately \$126.0 billion.

We believe a call right is profitable when the aggregate underlying loan value is greater than the sum of par on the loans minus any discount from acquired bonds plus expenses, including outstanding advances, related to such exercise. Generally, profit with respect to our call rights is generated by:

- acquiring bonds issued by the securitization at a discount, prior to initiating the call, such that the portion of the payment we make to the trust, which is returned to us as bondholders when the call is exercised, exceeds our purchase price for the bonds;
- re-securitizing or selling performing loans for a gain; and
- retaining distressed loans to modify or liquidate over time at a premium to our basis (which results in increases in our portfolio of residential mortgage loans and REO).

We continue to evaluate the call rights we acquired, and our ability to exercise such rights and realize the benefits therefrom are subject to a number of risks. The timing, size and potential returns of future call transactions may be less attractive than our prior activity in this sector due to a number of factors, most of which are beyond our control. See “Risk Factors—Risks Related to Our Business—Our ability to exercise our cleanup call rights may be limited or delayed if a third party also possessing such cleanup call rights exercises such rights, if the related securitization trustee refuses to permit the exercise of such rights, or if a related party is subject to bankruptcy proceedings.”

Residential Mortgage Loans and Real Estate Owned

We believe there may be attractive opportunities to invest in portfolios of non-performing and other residential mortgage loans, along with foreclosed properties. In certain of these investments, we would expect to acquire the loans at a deep discount to their face amount, and we (either independently or with a servicing co-investor) would seek to resolve the loans at a substantially higher valuation. In other investments, we would expect to acquire the foreclosed property at a deep discount to its value, and we would seek to monetize the discount through property improvements and sales. In addition, we may seek to employ leverage to increase returns, either through traditional financing lines or, if available, securitization options.

In addition, our wholly owned subsidiary originates conventional, government-insured and nonconforming residential mortgage loans for sale and securitization. The GSEs or Ginnie Mae guarantee conventional and government insured mortgage securitizations and mortgage investors issue nonconforming private label mortgage securitizations, while we generally retain the right to service the underlying residential mortgage loans.

Other Investments

We may pursue other types of investments as the market evolves, such as our opportunistic investment in consumer loans. Our Manager makes decisions about our investments in accordance with broad investment guidelines adopted by our board of directors. Accordingly, we may, without a stockholder vote, change our target asset classes and acquire a variety of assets that may differ

from, and are possibly riskier than, our current portfolio. For more information about our investment guidelines, see “—Investment Guidelines.”

Our Portfolio

Our current investment portfolio is comprised primarily of:

•“Servicing Related Assets”:

Acquired and Originated MSR, including mortgage servicing rights financing receivables (which are MSRs where our subsidiary, NRM, is the named servicer and we acquired the entire economic interest in the MSR but, solely for accounting purposes, the acquisition was not treated as a sale);

Excess MSRs;

Servicer Advance Investments (which include the related servicer advances receivable, the requirement to make future servicer advances, and the rights to receive the base fee portion of the related MSR, each of which on the loans underlying such investments); and

Servicer advances receivable (and the requirement under our MSRs to make future servicer advances);

•“Residential Securities and Loans”:

Real estate securities, or RMBS; and

Residential mortgage loans; and

•Consumer loans.

For more detail, see “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Our Portfolio.” The following table summarizes our consolidated investment portfolio as of December 31, 2018 (dollars in thousands):

	Outstanding Face Amount	Amortized Cost Basis	Percentage of Total Amortized Cost Basis		Carrying Value	Weighted Average Life (years) ^(A)
Investments in:						
Excess MSRs ^(B)	\$ 148,134,326	\$ 460,458	2.1	%	\$ 595,824	6.1
MSRs ^{(B) (C)}	258,462,703	2,566,694	11.7	%	2,884,100	6.5
Mortgage Servicing Rights Financing Receivables ^{(B) (C)}	130,516,565	1,303,738	5.9	%	1,644,504	6.8
Servicer Advance Investments ^{(B) (D)}	620,050	721,801	3.3	%	735,846	5.7
Agency RMBS ^(E)	2,613,395	2,657,917	12.1	%	2,665,618	8.1
Non-Agency RMBS ^(E)	19,539,450	8,554,511	39.0	%	8,970,963	6.9
Residential Mortgage Loans	4,806,115	4,475,029	20.4	%	4,476,338	9.1
Real Estate Owned	N/A	125,719	0.6	%	113,410	N/A
Consumer Loans	1,072,577	1,076,871	4.9	%	1,072,202	3.5
Consumer Loans, Equity Method Investees	231,560	N/A	N/A		38,294	1.3
Total / Weighted Average		\$ 21,942,738	100.0	%	\$ 23,197,099	7.2
Reconciliation to GAAP total assets:						
Cash and restricted cash					415,078	
Residential mortgage loans subject to repurchase					121,602	
Servicer advances receivable					3,277,796	
Trades receivable					3,925,198	
Deferred tax asset, net					65,832	
Other assets					688,408	
GAAP total assets					\$ 31,691,013	

(A) Weighted average life is based on the timing of our expected principal reduction on the asset.

The outstanding face amount of Excess MSRs, MSRs, Mortgage Servicing Rights Financing Receivables, and

(B) Servicer Advance Investments is based on 100% of the face amount of the underlying residential mortgage loans and currently outstanding advances, as applicable.

- (C) Represents MSR where our subsidiary, NRM, is the named servicer.
- (D) The value of our Servicer Advance Investments also includes the rights to a portion of the related MSR.
- (E) Amortized cost basis is net of impairment.

Over time, we expect to opportunistically adjust our portfolio composition in response to market conditions.

With respect to our Excess MSRs, Servicer Advance Investments, RMBS, residential mortgage loans and consumer loans, we engage servicers to service the loans, or loans underlying the investments, as applicable. With respect to our MSRs and servicer advances receivable, NRM is the named servicer but it engages a subservicer to service the loans underlying the investments. We refer to the servicers and subservicers we engage as our “Servicing Partners.” As of December 31, 2018, our Servicing Partners include, but are not limited to: Nationstar Mortgage LLC (“Nationstar”), Ocwen Financial Corporation (together with its subsidiaries, including Ocwen Loan Servicing LLC, “Ocwen”), PHH Corporation (together with its subsidiaries, including PHH Mortgage Corporation, “PHH”), Ditech Financial LLC (“Ditech,” a subsidiary of Ditech Holding Corporation), Flagstar Bank, FSB (“Flagstar”), New Penn Financial LLC (“New Penn”), Specialized Loan Servicing LLC (“SLS”), OneMain Holdings, Inc. (“OneMain”), and the Consumer Loan Seller (Note 9 to our Consolidated Financial Statements). In addition, NRM is referred to as a “Servicing Partner” when contextually applicable.

Our Segments

See Note 3 to our Consolidated Financial Statements for information on the segments through which New Residential conducts its business.

Investment Guidelines

Our board of directors has adopted a broad set of investment guidelines to be used by our Manager to evaluate specific investments. Our general investment guidelines prohibit any investment that would cause us to fail to qualify as a REIT, and any investment that would cause us to be regulated as an investment company. These investment guidelines may be changed by our board of directors without the approval of our stockholders. If our Board changes any of our investment guidelines, we will disclose such changes in our next required periodic report.

Financing Strategy

Our objective is to generate attractive risk-adjusted returns for our stockholders, which at times incorporates the use of leverage. The amount of leverage we deploy for a particular investment depends upon an assessment of a variety of factors, which may include the anticipated liquidity and price volatility of our assets; the gap between the duration of assets and liabilities, including hedges; the availability and cost of financing the assets; our opinion of the creditworthiness of financing counterparties; the health of the U.S. economy and the residential mortgage and housing markets; our outlook on interest rates; the credit quality of the loans underlying our investments; and our outlook for asset spreads relative to financing costs. See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Liquidity and Capital Resources—Debt Obligations” for further details about our debt obligations.

Hedging Strategy

Subject to maintaining our qualification as a REIT and exclusion from registration under the 1940 Act, we may, from time to time, utilize derivative financial instruments to hedge the interest rate risk associated with our borrowings. Under the U.S. federal income tax laws applicable to REITs, we generally will be able to enter into certain transactions to hedge indebtedness that we may incur, or plan to incur, to acquire or carry real estate assets, although our total gross income from interest rate hedges that do not meet this requirement and other non-qualifying sources generally must not exceed 5% of our gross income.

Subject to maintaining our qualification as a REIT and exclusion from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “1940 Act”), we may also engage in a variety of interest rate management techniques that seek on the one hand to mitigate the influence of interest rate changes on the values of some of our assets and on the other hand help us achieve our risk management objectives. The U.S. federal income tax rules applicable to REITs may require us to implement certain of these techniques through a domestic taxable REIT subsidiary (“TRS”) that is fully subject to U.S. federal corporate income taxation. Our interest rate management techniques may include:

- interest rate swap agreements, interest rate cap agreements, exchange-traded derivatives and swaptions;
- puts and calls on securities or indices of securities;
- U.S. Treasury securities and options on U.S. Treasury securities;

•TBAs; and
•other similar transactions.

Subject to maintaining our REIT qualification, we may utilize hedging instruments and techniques that we deem appropriate. We expect these instruments and techniques may allow us to reduce, but not eliminate, the impact of changing interest rates on our earnings and liquidity.

The Management Agreement

We entered into a Management Agreement with our Manager, an affiliate of Fortress, which was subsequently amended and restated on August 1, 2013, on August 5, 2014 and on May 7, 2015, pursuant to which our Manager provides for a management team and other professionals who are responsible for implementing our business strategy, subject to the supervision of our board of directors. Our Manager is responsible for, among other things, (i) setting investment criteria in accordance with broad investment guidelines adopted by our board of directors, (ii) sourcing, analyzing and executing acquisitions, (iii) providing financial and accounting management services and (iv) performing other duties as specified in the Management Agreement.