

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Estimated average burden hours per response: 0.5

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <u>MFA FINANCIAL, INC.</u>			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>MFA FINANCIAL, INC. [MFA]</u>			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Executive Vice President/CI&AO</u>		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/16/2010</u>			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		
C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC. 350 PARK AVENUE, 21ST FLOOR			4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)					
(Street) <u>NEW YORK NY 10022</u>								
(City) (State) (Zip)								

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	12/16/2010		A		2,445	A	\$0	2,445	D	

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Phantom Share	(I)	12/16/2010		A		20,000		(2)	(2)	Common Stock	20,000	\$0	20,000	D	
Phantom Share	(I)	12/16/2010		A		10,000		(3)	(3)	Common Stock	10,000	\$0	30,000	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. Each phantom share is the economic equivalent of one share of MFA's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share.
2. These phantom shares shall no longer be subject to forfeiture on December 31, 2014 and, thereafter, are payable on the earlier of termination of service with MFA or January 4, 2016.
3. These phantom shares shall no longer be subject to forfeiture on December 31, 2014 (subject to MFA's achievement of specified performance goals) and, thereafter, are payable on the earlier of termination of service with MFA or January 4, 2016.

Remarks:

/s/Timothy W. Korth, Attorney-In-Fact 12/17/2010

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

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

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