

FORM 5

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

OMB APPROVAL
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[] Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).
[] Form 3 Holdings Reported
[] Form 4 Transactions Reported

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * FRITSCH EDWARD J (Last) (First) (Middle) 3100 SMOKETREE COURT, SUITE 600 (Street) RALEIGH, NC 27604 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol HIGHWOODS PROPERTIES INC [HIW]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director _____ 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below) President & CEO
3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (MM/DD/YYYY) <p align="center">12/31/2016</p>		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person
Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned		

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Trans. Date	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	3. Trans. 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)
				Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	6/1/2016	6/1/2016	G	5000	D	\$0.00	422154 (1)	D	
Common Stock							100	I	By Children

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g. , puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)													
1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Trans. Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Trans. 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 (MM/DD/YYYY)		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 at End of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
					(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date					

Explanation of Responses:

(1) Includes 594 shares acquired in 2016 through the issuer's employee stock purchase plan.

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
FRITSCH EDWARD J 3100 SMOKETREE COURT, SUITE 600 RALEIGH, NC 27604	X		President & CEO	

Signatures

/s/Jeffrey D. Miller Attorney in fact for Edward J. Fritsch

2/13/2017

**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.

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