

MFA FINANCIAL, INC.
 Form 4
 December 17, 2010

FORM 4

**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).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 MFA FINANCIAL, INC.

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 MFA FINANCIAL, INC. [MFA]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC., 350
 PARK AVENUE, 21ST FLOOR
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 12/16/2010

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Executive Vice President/CI&AO

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

NEW YORK, NY 10022

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	12/16/2010		A		2,445	A	\$ 0 2,445
						D	

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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 Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Pr Deri Secu (Inst			
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Phantom Share	(1)	12/16/2010		A		20,000		(2)	(2)	Common Stock	20,000
Phantom Share	(1)	12/16/2010		A		10,000		(3)	(3)	Common Stock	10,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
MFA FINANCIAL, INC. C/O MFA FINANCIAL, INC. 350 PARK AVENUE, 21ST FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10022			Executive Vice President/CI&AO	

Signatures

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

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- (1) 1. Each phantom share is the economic equivalent of one share of MFA's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share.
- (2) 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) 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.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.