

ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST INC
Form 8-K
May 18, 2015

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (date of earliest event reported): **May 15, 2015**

ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

MARYLAND
(State of Incorporation)

001-31775
(Commission File Number)

86-1062192
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification
Number)

14185 Dallas Parkway, Suite 1100
Dallas, Texas
(Address of principal executive offices)

75254
(Zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(972) 490-9600**

Check the appropriate box if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

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- o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement

On May 15, 2015, Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. (the Company), Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership, the Company's operating partnership, and Ashford Hospitality Advisors LLC, the Company's advisor, entered into an Equity Distribution Agreement (the Equity Distribution Agreement) with JMP Securities LLC (JMP), in connection with the issuance and sale of shares of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, having an aggregate offering price of up to \$150,000,000 (Subject Common Stock), from time to time through JMP. The Equity Distribution Agreement provides that each time that the Company wishes to issue and sell shares of Subject Common Stock, it will notify JMP of the parameters in accordance with which the Company desires the shares of Subject Common Stock to be sold, which notice shall include the number of shares of Subject Common Stock to be issued, the time period during which sales are requested to be made, any limitation on the number of shares of Subject Common Stock that may be sold in any one day and any minimum price below which sales may not be made (each, as may be amended in accordance with the following sentence, a Placement Notice). If JMP wishes to accept the terms included in a Placement Notice (which it may decline to do for any reason in its sole discretion) or, following discussion with the Company, wishes to accept amended terms, JMP will notify the Company, and for the period specified in the Placement Notice, JMP will use its commercially reasonable efforts to sell the shares of Subject Common Stock covered by the related Placement Notice at prevailing market prices up to the amount specified, and otherwise in accordance with the terms of such Placement Notice. The compensation payable to JMP will be an amount up to 2.0% of the gross sales proceeds of the Subject Common Stock.

The Equity Distribution Agreement shall automatically terminate upon the sale by JMP of all of the shares of Subject Common Stock. In addition, the Company or JMP may terminate the Equity Distribution Agreement at any time by giving one day notice to the other party.

The foregoing summary is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Equity Distribution Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit 1.1 and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 8.01. Other Events.

Reference is hereby made to the Company's registration statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-204235), which became effective as of May 15, 2015, pursuant to which the Company registered the sale of debt and equity securities in accordance with the provisions of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. Reference is also hereby made to the prospectus and the related prospectus supplement, which was filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5) on May 15, 2015, with respect to the shares of Subject Common Stock, as described above.

On May 15, 2015, Hogan Lovells US LLP issued an opinion with respect to the legality of the issuance and sale by the Company of the shares of Subject Common Stock to be sold pursuant to the Equity Distribution Agreement, a copy of which is filed as an exhibit to this Form 8-K.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

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Exhibit No.	Description
1.1	Equity Distribution Agreement, dated May 15, 2015, between Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc., Ashford Hospitality Limited Partnership, Ashford Hospitality Advisors LLC and JMP Securities LLC.
5.1	Opinion of Hogan Lovells US LLP, dated May 15, 2015, with respect to the legality of the shares of Subject Common Stock.
23.1	Consent of Hogan Lovells US LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: May 15, 2015

ASHFORD HOSPITALITY TRUST, INC.

By: /s/ David A. Brooks
David A. Brooks
Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel