

SCHWEINHART RICHARD A
 Form 4
 January 23, 2009

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
 SCHWEINHART RICHARD A

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 10350 ORMSBY PARK PLACE,
 SUITE 300
 (Street)

LOUISVILLE,, KY 40223

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 VENTAS INC [VTR]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 01/21/2009

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

___ Director ___ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)
 EVP & Chief Fin. Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 ___ 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. 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 or (D) Price | | |
| Common Stock | 01/21/2009 | | A | | 19,701 (1) | A | \$ 0 105,937.234 D |
| Common Stock | 01/21/2009 | | F | | 2,927 (2) | D | \$ 28.96 103,010.234 D |
| Common Stock | 01/22/2009 | | F | | 2,557 (3) | D | \$ 28.11 100,453.234 D |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 1,605 I By IRA |

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

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(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) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 28.96 | 01/21/2009 | | A | 39,823 (4) | 01/21/2009 ⁽⁵⁾ 01/21/2019 | Common Stock 39,823 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| SCHWEINHART RICHARD A 10350 ORMSBY PARK PLACE, SUITE 300 LOUISVILLE, KY 40223 | | | EVP & Chief Fin. Officer | |

Signatures

Richard A. Schweinhart, By: T. Richard Riney, Attorney-In-Fact
Date: 01/23/2009

**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) Restricted stock granted by Issuer pursuant to the Ventas, Inc. 2006 Incentive Plan (the "Plan"). These shares vest in three equal annual installments beginning on the date of grant.
- (2) Represents shares withheld to pay the taxes on the vesting of restricted stock granted on January 21, 2009 under the Plan.
- (3) Represents shares withheld to pay the taxes on the vesting of restricted stock granted on January 22, 2008 under the Plan.
- (4) Stock options granted by Issuer pursuant to the Plan.
- (5) These options vest in three equal annual installments beginning on the date of grant.
- (6) Represents total number of unexercised stock options held by the Reporting Person as of January 22, 2009.

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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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