

BANCORP RHODE ISLAND INC
Form 424B3
February 12, 2009
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Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(B)(3)

Registration No. 333-156778

PROSPECTUS

**Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A
Warrant to Purchase 192,967 shares of Common Stock
192,967 shares of Common Stock**

This prospectus relates to the potential resale from time to time by selling securityholders of some or all of the shares of our Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, or the Series A Preferred Stock, a warrant to purchase 192,967 shares of common stock, or the Warrant, and any shares of common stock issuable from time to time upon exercise of the Warrant. In this prospectus, we refer to the shares of Series A Preferred Stock, the Warrant and the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant, collectively, as the Securities. The Series A Preferred Stock and the Warrant were originally issued by us pursuant to that certain Letter Agreement dated December 19, 2008, and the related Securities Purchase Agreement Standard Terms, between us and the United States Department of the Treasury, which we refer to as the initial selling securityholder, in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act.

The initial selling securityholder and its successors, including transferees, which we collectively refer to as the selling securityholders, may offer the Securities from time to time directly or through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents and in one or more public or private transactions and at fixed prices, prevailing market prices, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. If the Securities are sold through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, the selling securityholders will be responsible for underwriting discounts or commissions or agents commissions.

We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the Securities by the selling securityholders.

The Series A Preferred Stock is not listed on an exchange, and, unless requested by the initial selling securityholder, we do not intend to list the Series A Preferred Stock on any exchange.

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Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol BARI. On January 14, 2009, the closing price of our common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market was \$20.84 per share. You are urged to obtain current market quotations of the common stock.

Our principal executive offices are located at One Turks Head Place, Providence, Rhode Island 02903, and our telephone number is (401) 456-5000.

You should refer to the risk factors included in our periodic reports and other information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission and carefully consider that information before buying our securities. See Risk Factors on page 3.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the Securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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The Securities are not deposits, savings accounts or other obligations of any bank or savings association and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

The date of this prospectus is February 11, 2009.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, the selling securityholders may, from time to time, offer and sell, in one or more offerings, the Securities described in this prospectus.

We may provide a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of a particular offering by the selling securityholders. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information in this prospectus. If the information in this prospectus is inconsistent with a prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in that prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and, if applicable, any prospectus supplement. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) for more information.

In this prospectus, BancorpRI, we, our, ours, and us refer to Bancorp Rhode Island, Inc., and its subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise requires. References to BankRI mean Bank Rhode Island, which is our principal bank subsidiary.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

We make certain forward looking statements in this prospectus and in other documents that we incorporate by reference into this prospectus that are based upon our current expectations and projections about current events. We intend these forward looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and we are including this statement for purposes of these safe harbor provisions. You can identify these statements by reference to a future period or periods by our use of the words estimate, project, may, believe, intend, anticipate, plan, seek, expect and similar terms or variations of these terms. These forward looking statements include:

- statements of our goals, intentions and expectations;
- statements regarding our business plans and prospects and growth and operating strategies;
- statements regarding the quality of our products and our loan and investment portfolios; and
- estimates of our risks and future costs and benefits.

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These forward looking statements are subject to significant risks, assumptions and uncertainties, including, among other things, the following important factors that could affect the actual outcome of future events:

- significantly increased competition among depository and other financial institutions;
 - changes in the interest rate environment that reduce our margins or reduce the fair value of financial instruments;
 - general economic conditions, either nationally or in our market area, that are worse than expected;
 - adverse changes in the securities markets;
 - credit risk of lending activities, including changes in the level and trend of loan delinquencies and write-offs;
 - changes in management's estimate of the adequacy of the allowance for loan and lease losses;
 - legislative or regulatory changes that adversely affect our business;
 - the ability to enter new markets successfully and capitalize on growth opportunities;
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- effects of and changes in trade, monetary and fiscal policies and laws, including interest rate policies of the Federal Reserve Board;
- timely and efficient development of and acceptance of new products and services;
- changes in consumer spending, borrowing and savings habits;
- effects of changes in accounting policies and practices, as may be adopted by the bank regulatory agencies and other regulatory and accounting bodies;
- changes in our organization, compensation and benefit plans;
- costs and effects of litigation and unexpected or adverse outcomes in such litigation; and
- our success in managing risks involved in the foregoing.

For other factors, risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from estimates and projections contained in forward-looking statements, please read the Risk Factors sections contained in our reports to the SEC. Our forward looking statements do not reflect the potential impact of any future acquisitions, mergers, dispositions, joint ventures or investments we may make. We do not assume any obligation to update any forward looking statements.

SUMMARY

The following summary highlights selected information contained elsewhere in this prospectus and does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in our securities. You should read the entire prospectus carefully including the Risks Factors and the documents that we refer to or incorporate by reference.

Bancorp Rhode Island, Inc. is the holding company for Bank Rhode Island, a commercial bank chartered as a financial institution in the State of Rhode Island and headquartered in Providence. BankRI was formed in March 1996 as a result of the acquisition of 12 branches divested by Fleet Financial Group as part of the Fleet/Shawmut merger. BankRI became our wholly-owned subsidiary upon completion of our

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reorganization into a holding company on September 1, 2000. As of September 30, 2008, we had total assets of \$1.49 billion, total deposits of \$1.02 billion and total shareholders' equity of approximately \$114 million.

We provide a community banking alternative in the greater Providence area where we currently operate 16 branches in Rhode Island's three most populous counties. We augment our branch network through online banking services and automatic teller machines (ATMs), both owned and leased, located throughout the state.

Our market is dominated by three large banking institutions, two national and one regional. Based on total deposits as of June 30, 2008 (excluding one bank that draws its deposits primarily from the internet), BankRI is the fifth largest bank in Rhode Island and the only mid-sized commercially focused bank headquartered in Providence, the State's capital. BankRI offers its customers a wide range of business, commercial real estate, consumer and residential loans and leases, deposit products, nondeposit investment products, cash management and online banking services, private banking and other banking products and services designed to meet the financial needs of individuals and small- to mid-sized businesses. As a full-service community bank, BankRI seeks to differentiate itself from its large bank competitors through superior personal service, responsiveness and local decision-making. The Bank's deposits are insured by the FDIC, subject to regulatory limits.

Recent Developments

On December 19, 2008, we entered into a Letter Agreement and a Securities Purchase Agreement - Standard Terms with the United States Treasury Department, pursuant to which we agreed to issue and sell, and the

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Treasury agreed to purchase (i) 30,000 shares of our Series A Preferred Stock, having a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share and (ii) the Warrant to purchase up to 192,967 shares of our common stock, par value \$.01, at an initial exercise price of \$23.32 per share. The Warrant was immediately exercisable upon its issuance and will expire on December 19, 2018.

We are registering the shares of the Series A Preferred Stock and the Warrant sold to the Treasury pursuant to the transaction described above and elsewhere in this prospectus, as well as the shares of our common stock to be issued upon the exercise of the Warrant.

Corporate Information

Our executive offices are located at One Turks Head Place, Providence, Rhode Island 02903, our telephone number is (401) 456-5000 and our Internet address is <http://www.bankri.com>. The information on our Internet website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

RISK FACTORS

Investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in any prospectus supplement as well as in the section entitled "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" contained in our annual report on Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2007 and in our updates to those "Risk Factors" contained in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, as well as other information in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement, and any other documents or reports incorporated by reference herein, before purchasing any of our securities. Each of the risks described in these sections and documents could materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects, and could result in a loss of your investment.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We will not receive any proceeds from any sale of the Securities by the selling securityholders.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

Our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the five fiscal years ended December 31, 2007 and each of the nine-month periods ended September 30, 2008 and 2007 are as follows:

Years Ended December 31,

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	Nine Months Ended September 30,						
	2008	2007	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (1)							
Including interest on deposits	1.37	1.29	1.29	1.29	1.53	1.65	1.54
Excluding interest on deposits	1.97	1.81	1.83	1.66	2.15	2.43	2.29

(1) Ratios were derived from our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, and from our annual reports on Form 10-K for the years ended December 31, 2007, December 31, 2006, December 31, 2005, December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2003.

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For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings are the sum of:

- income before taxes; and
- fixed charges.

For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges, fixed charges are the sum of:

- interest expenses, including interest on deposits; and, in the second alternative shown above, excluding interest on deposits; and
- that portion of net rental expense deemed to be the equivalent to interest on long-term debt.

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES A PREFERRED STOCK

The following is a brief description of the terms of the Series A Preferred Stock that may be resold by the selling securityholders. This summary does not purport to be complete in all respects. This description is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our Articles of Incorporation, as amended, and the Certificate of Designations with respect to the Series A Preferred Stock, attached as Exhibit A to the Certificate of Vote(s) Authorizing Issuance of a Class or Series of any Class of Shares filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Rhode Island on December 16, 2008, referred to herein as the "Certificate of Designations", copies of which have been filed with the SEC and are also available upon request from us.

General

Under our Articles of Incorporation, we have authority to issue up to 1,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$.01 value per share. We have designated 30,000 shares as Series A Preferred Stock, all of which shares of Series A Preferred Stock were issued to the initial selling securityholder in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. The issued and outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock are validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

Dividends Payable on Shares of Series A Preferred Stock

Holders of shares of Series A Preferred Stock are entitled to receive if, as and when declared by our board of directors or a duly authorized committee of the board, out of assets legally available for payment, cumulative cash dividends at a rate per annum of 5% per share on a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share of Series A Preferred Stock with respect to each dividend period from December 19, 2008 to, but excluding, February 15, 2014. From and after February 15, 2014, holders of shares of Series A Preferred Stock are entitled to receive cumulative cash dividends at a rate per annum of 9% per share on a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share of Series A Preferred Stock with respect to each dividend period thereafter.

Dividends are payable quarterly in arrears on each February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15 of each year during which the Series A Preferred Stock is outstanding, starting with February 15, 2009. If any dividend payment date is not a business day, then the next business day will be the applicable dividend payment date, and no additional dividends will accrue as a result of the applicable postponement of the dividend payment date. Dividends payable during any dividend period are computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months. Dividends payable with respect to the Series A Preferred Stock are payable to holders of record of shares of Series A Preferred Stock on the date that is 15 calendar days immediately preceding the applicable dividend payment date or such other record date as the board of directors or any duly authorized committee of the board determines, so long as such record date is not more than 60 nor less than 10 days prior to the applicable dividend payment date.

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If we determine not to pay any dividend or a full dividend with respect to the Series A Preferred Stock, we are required to provide written notice to the holders of shares of Series A Preferred Stock prior to the applicable dividend payment date.

We depend on dividends, distributions and other payments from our banking subsidiary, BankRI, to fund dividends on our common stock and preferred stock. Payment of dividends by BancorpRI is also restricted by statutory limitations applicable to all bank holding companies. These limitations could have the effect of reducing the amount of dividends we can declare.

Priority of Dividends

With respect to the payment of dividends and the amounts to be paid upon liquidation, the Series A Preferred Stock will rank:

- senior to our common stock and all other equity securities designated as ranking junior to the Series A Preferred Stock; and
- at least equally with all other equity securities designated as ranking on a parity with the Series A Preferred Stock, or parity stock, with respect to the payment of dividends and distribution of assets upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of BancorpRI.

So long as any shares of Series A Preferred Stock remain outstanding, unless all accrued and unpaid dividends for all prior dividend periods have been paid or are contemporaneously declared and paid in full, no dividend whatsoever shall be paid or declared on BancorpRI's common stock or other junior stock, other than a dividend payable solely in common stock. We and our subsidiaries also may not purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire for consideration any shares of our common stock or other junior stock unless we have paid in full all accrued dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock for all prior dividend periods, other than:

- purchases, redemptions or other acquisitions of our common stock or other junior stock in connection with the administration of our employee benefit plans in the ordinary course of business pursuant to a publicly announced repurchase plan up to the increase in diluted shares outstanding resulting from the grant, vesting or exercise of equity-based compensation;
- purchases or other acquisitions by broker-dealer subsidiaries of BancorpRI solely for the purpose of market-making, stabilization or customer facilitation transactions in junior stock or parity stock in the ordinary course of business;

- purchases or other acquisitions by broker-dealer subsidiaries of BancorpRI for resale pursuant to an offering by BancorpRI of our stock that is underwritten by the related broker-dealer subsidiary;
- any dividends or distributions of rights or junior stock in connection with any shareholders' rights plan or repurchases of rights pursuant to any shareholders' rights plan;
- acquisition of record ownership of junior stock or parity stock for the beneficial ownership of any other person who is not BancorpRI or a subsidiary of BancorpRI, including as trustee or custodian; and
- the exchange or conversion of junior stock for or into other junior stock or of parity stock for or into other parity stock or junior stock but only to the extent that such acquisition is required pursuant to binding contractual agreements entered into before December 19, 2008 or any subsequent agreement for the accelerated exercise, settlement or exchange thereof for common stock.

If we repurchase shares of Series A Preferred Stock from a holder other than the initial selling securityholder, we must offer to repurchase a ratable portion of the Series A Preferred Stock then held by the initial selling securityholder.

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On any dividend payment date for which full dividends are not paid, or declared and funds set aside therefor, on the Series A Preferred Stock and any other parity stock, all dividends paid or declared for payment on that dividend payment date (or, with respect to parity stock with a different dividend payment date, on the applicable dividend date therefor falling within the dividend period and related to the dividend payment date for the Series A Preferred Stock), with respect to the Series A Preferred Stock and any other parity stock shall be declared ratably among the holders of any such shares who have the right to receive dividends, in proportion to the respective amounts of the undeclared and unpaid dividends relating to the dividend period.

Subject to the foregoing, such dividends (payable in cash, stock or otherwise) as may be determined by our board of directors (or a duly authorized committee of the board) may be declared and paid on our common stock and any other stock ranking equally with or junior to the Series A Preferred Stock from time to time out of any funds legally available for such payment, and the Series A Preferred Stock shall not be entitled to participate in any such dividend.

Redemption

The Series A Preferred Stock may not be redeemed prior to February 15, 2012 unless we have received aggregate gross proceeds from one or more qualified equity offerings (as described below) equal to \$7,500,000, which equals 25% of the aggregate liquidation amount of the Series A Preferred Stock on the date of issuance. In such a case, we may redeem the Series A Preferred Stock, subject to the approval of the Federal Reserve Board, in whole or in part, upon notice as described below, up to a maximum amount equal to the aggregate net cash proceeds received by us from such qualified equity offerings. A qualified equity offering is a sale and issuance for cash by us, to persons other than BancorpRI or its subsidiaries after December 19, 2008, of shares of perpetual preferred stock, common stock or a combination thereof, that in each case qualify as tier 1 capital of BancorpRI at the time of issuance under the applicable risk-based capital guidelines of the Federal Reserve Board.

After February 15, 2012, the Series A Preferred Stock may be redeemed at any time, subject to the approval of the Federal Reserve Board, in whole or in part, subject to notice as described below.

In any redemption, the redemption price is an amount equal to the per share liquidation amount plus accrued and unpaid dividends to but excluding the date of redemption.

The Series A Preferred Stock will not be subject to any mandatory redemption, sinking fund or similar provisions. Holders of shares of Series A Preferred Stock have no right to require the redemption or repurchase of the Series A Preferred Stock.

If fewer than all of the outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock are to be redeemed, the shares to be redeemed will be selected either *pro rata* from the holders of record of shares of Series A Preferred Stock in proportion to the number of shares held by those holders or in such other manner as our board of directors or a committee thereof may determine to be fair and equitable.

We will mail notice of any redemption of Series A Preferred Stock by first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the holders of record of the shares of Series A Preferred Stock to be redeemed at their respective last addresses appearing on our books. This mailing will be at least 30 days

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and not more than 60 days before the date fixed for redemption. Any notice mailed or otherwise given as described in this paragraph will be conclusively presumed to have been duly given, whether or not the holder receives the notice, and failure duly to give the notice by mail or otherwise, or any defect in the notice or in the mailing or provision of the notice, to any holder of Series A Preferred Stock designated for redemption will not affect the redemption of any other Series A Preferred Stock. Each notice of redemption will set forth the applicable redemption date, the redemption price, the place where shares of Series A Preferred Stock are to be redeemed, and the number of shares of Series A Preferred Stock to be redeemed (and, if less than all shares of Series A Preferred Stock held by the applicable holder, the number of shares to be redeemed from the holder).

Shares of Series A Preferred Stock that are redeemed, repurchased or otherwise acquired by us will revert to authorized but unissued shares of our preferred stock.

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Liquidation Rights

In the event that we voluntarily or involuntarily liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs, holders of Series A Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive an amount per share, referred to as the total liquidation amount, equal to the fixed liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends, whether or not declared, to the date of payment. Holders of the Series A Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive the total liquidation amount out of our assets that are available for distribution to shareholders, after payment or provision for payment of our debts and other liabilities but before any distribution of assets is made to holders of our common stock or any other shares ranking, as to that distribution, junior to the Series A Preferred Stock.

If our assets are not sufficient to pay the total liquidation amount in full to all holders of Series A Preferred Stock and all holders of any shares of outstanding parity stock, the amounts paid to the holders of Series A Preferred Stock and other shares of parity stock will be paid *pro rata* in accordance with the respective total liquidation amount for those holders. If the total liquidation amount per share of Series A Preferred Stock has been paid in full to all holders of Series A Preferred Stock and other shares of parity stock, the holders of our common stock or any other shares ranking, as to such distribution, junior to the Series A Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive all of our remaining assets according to their respective rights and preferences.

For purposes of the liquidation rights, neither the sale, conveyance, exchange or transfer of all or substantially all of our property and assets, nor the consolidation or merger by us with or into any other corporation or by another corporation with or into us, will constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of our affairs.

Voting Rights

Except as indicated below or otherwise required by law, the holders of Series A Preferred Stock will not have any voting rights.

Election of Two Directors upon Non-Payment of Dividends. If the dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock have not been paid for an aggregate of six quarterly dividend periods or more (whether or not consecutive), the authorized number of directors then constituting our board of directors will be increased by two. Holders of Series A Preferred Stock, together with the holders of any outstanding parity stock with like voting rights, referred to as voting parity stock, voting as a single class, will be entitled to elect the two additional members of our board of directors, referred to as the preferred stock directors, at the next annual meeting (or at a special meeting called for the purpose of electing the preferred stock directors prior to the next annual meeting) and at each subsequent annual meeting until all accrued and unpaid dividends for all past dividend periods have been paid in full. The election of any preferred stock director is subject to the qualification that the election would not cause us to violate the corporate governance requirement of the NASDAQ Global Select Market (or any other exchange on which our securities may be listed) that listed companies must have a majority of independent directors.

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Upon the termination of the right of the holders of Series A Preferred Stock and voting parity stock to vote for preferred stock directors, as described above, the preferred stock directors will immediately cease to be qualified as directors, their term of office shall terminate immediately and the number of authorized directors of BancorpRI will be reduced by the number of preferred stock directors that the holders of Series A Preferred Stock and voting parity stock had been entitled to elect. The holders of a majority of shares of Series A Preferred Stock and voting parity stock, voting as a class, may remove any preferred stock director, with or without cause, and the holders of a majority of the shares of Series A Preferred Stock and voting parity stock, voting as a class, may fill any vacancy created by the removal of a preferred stock director. If the office of a preferred stock director becomes vacant for any other reason, the remaining preferred stock director may choose a successor to fill such vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Other Voting Rights. So long as any shares of Series A Preferred Stock are outstanding, in addition to any other vote or consent of shareholders required by law or by our Articles of Incorporation or Certificate of Designations, the vote or consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the shares of Series A Preferred Stock at the time outstanding, voting separately as a single class, given in person or by proxy, either in writing without a meeting or by vote at any meeting called for the purpose, shall be necessary for effecting or validating:

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- any amendment or alteration of our Articles of Incorporation or Certificate of Designations to authorize or create or increase the authorized amount of, or any issuance of, any shares of, or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for shares of, any class or series of capital stock ranking senior to the Series A Preferred Stock with respect to payment of dividends and/or distribution of assets on any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of BancorpRI;
- any amendment, alteration or repeal of any provision of the Certificate of Designations so as to adversely affect the rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers of the Series A Preferred Stock; or
- any consummation of a binding share exchange or reclassification involving the Series A Preferred Stock or of a merger or consolidation of BancorpRI with another entity, unless the shares of Series A Preferred Stock remain outstanding following any such transaction or, if BancorpRI is not the surviving entity, are converted into or exchanged for preference securities and such remaining outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock or preference securities have rights, references, privileges and voting powers that are not materially less favorable than the rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers of the Series A Preferred Stock, taken as a whole.

To the extent of the voting rights of the Series A Preferred Stock, each holder of Series A Preferred Stock will have one vote for each \$1,000 of liquidation preference to which such holder's shares of Series A Preferred Stock are entitled.

The foregoing voting provisions will not apply if, at or prior to the time when the vote or consent would otherwise be required, all outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock have been redeemed or called for redemption upon proper notice and sufficient funds have been set aside by us for the benefit of the holders of Series A Preferred Stock to effect the redemption.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANT TO PURCHASE COMMON STOCK

The following is a brief description of the terms of the Warrant that may be resold by the selling securityholders. This summary does not purport to be complete in all respects. This description is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the Warrant, a copy of which has been filed with the SEC and is also available upon request from us.

Shares of Common Stock Subject to the Warrant

The Warrant is initially exercisable for 192,967 shares of our common stock. If we complete one or more qualified equity offerings on or prior to December 31, 2009 that result in our receipt of aggregate gross proceeds of not less than the issue price of the Series A Preferred Stock sold to the Treasury Department and the Treasury Department is still the holder of the Warrant, which is equal to 100% of the aggregate liquidation

preference of the Series A Preferred Stock, the number of shares of common stock underlying the Warrant then held by the selling securityholders will be reduced by 50% to 96,482 shares. The number of shares subject to the Warrant are subject to further adjustments described below under the heading Adjustments to the Warrant.

Exercise of the Warrant

The initial exercise price applicable to the Warrant is \$23.32 per share of common stock for which the Warrant may be exercised. The Warrant may be exercised at any time on or before December 19, 2018 by surrender of the Warrant and a completed notice of exercise attached as an annex to the Warrant and the payment of the exercise price for the shares of common stock for which the Warrant is being exercised. The exercise price may be paid either by the withholding by BancorpRI of such number of shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant equal to the value of the aggregate exercise price of the Warrant determined by reference to the market price of our common stock on the trading day on which the Warrant is exercised or, if agreed to by us and the warrant holder, by the payment of cash equal to the aggregate exercise price. The exercise price applicable to the Warrant is subject to the further adjustments described below under the heading Adjustments to the Warrant.

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Upon exercise of the Warrant, certificates for the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise will be issued to the warrant holder. We will not issue fractional shares upon any exercise of the Warrant. Instead, the warrant holder will be entitled to a cash payment equal to the market price of our common stock on the last day preceding the exercise of the Warrant (less the pro-rated exercise price of the Warrant) for any fractional shares that would have otherwise been issuable upon exercise of the Warrant. We will at all times reserve the aggregate number of shares of our common stock for which the Warrant may be exercised.

Rights as a Shareholder

The warrant holder shall have no rights or privileges of the holders of our common stock, including any voting rights, until (and then only to the extent) the Warrant has been exercised.

Transferability

The initial selling securityholder may not transfer a portion of the Warrant with respect to more than 96,482 shares of common stock until the earlier of the date on which BancorpRI has received aggregate gross proceeds from a qualified equity offering of at least the issue price of the Series A Preferred Stock and December 31, 2009. The Warrant, and all rights under the Warrant, are otherwise transferable.

Adjustments to the Warrant

Adjustments in Connection with Stock Splits, Subdivisions, Reclassifications and Combinations. The number of shares for which the Warrant may be exercised and the exercise price applicable to the Warrant will be proportionately adjusted in the event we pay dividends or make distributions of our common stock, subdivide, combine or reclassify outstanding shares of our common stock.

Anti-dilution Adjustment. Until the earlier of December 19, 2011 and the date the initial selling securityholder no longer holds the Warrant (and other than in certain permitted transactions described below), if we issue any shares of common stock (or securities convertible or exercisable into common stock) for less than 90% of the market price of the common stock on the last trading day prior to pricing such shares, then the number of shares of common stock into which the Warrant is exercisable and the exercise price will be adjusted. Permitted transactions include issuances:

- as consideration for or to fund the acquisition of businesses and/or related assets;

- in connection with employee benefit plans and compensation related arrangements in the ordinary course and consistent with past practice approved by our board of directors;
- in connection with public or broadly marketed offerings and sales of common stock or convertible securities for cash conducted by us or our affiliates pursuant to registration under the Securities Act, or Rule 144A thereunder on a basis consistent with capital-raising transactions by comparable financial institutions (but do not include other private transactions); and
- in connection with the exercise of preemptive rights on terms existing as of December 19, 2008.

Other Distributions. If we declare any dividends or distributions other than our historical, ordinary cash dividends, the exercise price of the Warrant will be adjusted to reflect such distribution.

Certain Repurchases. If we effect a *pro rata* repurchase of common stock both the number of shares issuable upon exercise of the Warrant and the exercise price will be adjusted.

Business Combinations. In the event of a merger, consolidation or similar transaction involving BancorpRI and requiring shareholder approval, the warrant holder's right to receive shares of our common stock upon exercise of the Warrant shall be converted into the right to exercise the Warrant for the consideration that would have been payable to the warrant holder with respect to the shares of common stock for which the Warrant may be exercised, as if the Warrant had been exercised immediately prior to such merger, consolidation or similar transaction.

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DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

The following is a brief description of our common stock. This summary does not purport to be complete in all respects. This description is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our Articles of Incorporation, as amended, a copy of which has been filed with the SEC and which is also available upon request from us.

General

We have 11,000,000 shares of authorized common stock, \$.01 par value per share, of which 4,569,704 shares (net of treasury stock) were outstanding as of December 31, 2008.

Holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share that they hold for the election of directors and on all matters to be submitted to a vote of the shareholders and have no pre-emptive rights. Shares of our common stock are not redeemable or convertible.

Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends and other distributions if, as and when declared by our board of directors out of any funds legally available for dividends. Upon our liquidation or dissolution, holders of our common stock are also entitled to receive *pro rata* our net assets, if any, remaining after payment of all our creditors and preferred liquidation payments to holders of our Series A Preferred Stock and any other outstanding class or series of preferred stock.

Our Series A Preferred Stock has, and any other series of preferred stock upon issuance will have, preference over our common stock with respect to the payment of dividends and the distribution of assets in the event of our liquidation or dissolution. Our preferred stock also has such other preferences as currently, or as may be, fixed by our board of directors.

Our common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market. Outstanding shares of our common stock are validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable. Holders of our common stock are not, and will not be, subject to any liability as shareholders.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Registrar and Transfer Company.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The selling securityholders and their successors, including their transferees, may sell the Securities directly to purchasers or through underwriters, broker-dealers or agents, who may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the selling securityholders or the purchasers of the Securities. These discounts, concessions or commissions as to any particular underwriter, broker-dealer or agent may be in excess of those customary in the types of transactions involved.

The Securities may be sold in one or more transactions at fixed prices, at prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at varying prices determined at the time of sale or at negotiated prices. These sales may be effected in transactions, which may involve crosses or block transactions:

- on any national securities exchange or quotation service on which the Series A Preferred Stock or the common stock may be listed or quoted at the time of sale, including, as of the date of this prospectus, the NASDAQ Global Select Market in the case of the common stock;
- in the over-the-counter market;
- in transactions otherwise than on these exchanges or services or in the over-the-counter market; or
- through the writing of options, whether the options are listed on an options exchange or otherwise.

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In addition, any Securities that qualify for sale pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act may be sold under Rule 144 rather than pursuant to this prospectus.

In connection with the sale of the Securities or otherwise, the selling securityholders may enter into hedging transactions with broker-dealers, which may in turn engage in short sales of the common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant in the course of hedging the positions they assume. The selling securityholders may also sell short the common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant and deliver common stock to close out short positions, or loan or pledge the Series A Preferred Stock or the common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant to broker-dealers that in turn may sell the Securities.

The aggregate proceeds to the selling securityholders from the sale of the Securities will be the purchase price of the Securities less discounts and commissions, if any.

In effecting sales, broker-dealers or agents engaged by the selling securityholders may arrange for other broker-dealers to participate. Broker-dealers or agents may receive commissions, discounts or concessions from the selling securityholders in amounts to be negotiated immediately prior to the sale.

In offering the Securities covered by this prospectus, the selling securityholders and any broker-dealers who execute sales for the selling securityholders may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act in connection with such sales. Any profits realized by the selling securityholders and the compensation of any broker-dealer may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions. Selling securityholders who are underwriters within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act will be subject to the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act and may be subject to certain statutory and regulatory liabilities, including liabilities imposed pursuant to Sections 11, 12 and 17 of the Securities Act and Rule 10b-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or the Exchange Act.

In order to comply with the securities laws of certain states, if applicable, the Securities must be sold in such jurisdictions only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in certain states the Securities may not be sold unless they have been registered or qualified for sale in the applicable state or an exemption from the registration or qualification requirement is available and is complied with.

The anti-manipulation rules of Regulation M under the Exchange Act may apply to sales of the Securities pursuant to this prospectus and to the activities of the selling securityholders. In addition, we will make copies of this prospectus available to the selling securityholders for the purpose of satisfying the prospectus delivery requirements of the Securities Act, which may include delivery through the facilities of the NASDAQ Global Select Market pursuant to Rule 153 under the Securities Act.

At the time a particular offer of securities is made, if required, a prospectus supplement will set forth the number and type of securities being offered and the terms of the offering, including the name of any underwriter, dealer or agent, the purchase price paid by any underwriter, any discount, commission and other item constituting compensation, any discount, commission or concession allowed or reallowed or paid to any dealer, and the proposed selling price to the public.

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We do not intend to apply for listing of the Series A Preferred Stock on any securities exchange or for inclusion of the Series A Preferred Stock in any automated quotation system unless requested by the initial selling shareholder. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market, if any, for the Series A Preferred Stock.

We have agreed to indemnify the selling securityholders against certain liabilities, including certain liabilities under the Securities Act. We have also agreed, among other things, to bear substantially all expenses (other than underwriting discounts and selling commissions) in connection with the registration and sale of the Securities covered by this prospectus.

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SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS

On December 19, 2008, we issued the Securities covered by this prospectus to the United States Department of Treasury, which is the initial selling securityholder under this prospectus, in a transaction exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. The initial selling securityholder, or its successors, including transferees, may from time to time offer and sell, pursuant to this prospectus or a supplement to this prospectus, any or all of the Securities they own. The Securities to be offered under this prospectus for the account of the selling securityholders are:

- 30,000 shares of our Series A Preferred Stock, representing beneficial ownership of 100% of our Series A Preferred Stock outstanding on the date of this prospectus;
- a Warrant to purchase 192,967 shares of our common stock, representing beneficial ownership of approximately 4.2% of our common stock as of December 31, 2008; and
- 192,967 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant, which shares, if issued, would represent ownership of approximately 4.2% of our common stock as of December 31, 2008.

For purposes of this prospectus, we have assumed that, after completion of the offering, none of the Securities covered by this prospectus will be held by the selling securityholders.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the SEC and includes voting or investment power with respect to the Securities. To our knowledge, the initial selling securityholder has sole voting and investment power with respect to the Securities.

We do not know when or in what amounts the selling securityholders may offer the Securities for sale. The selling securityholders might not sell any or all of the Securities offered by this prospectus. Because the selling securityholders may offer all or some of the Securities pursuant to this offering, and because currently no sale of any of the Securities is subject to any agreements, arrangements or understandings, we cannot estimate the number of the Securities that will be held by the selling securityholders after completion of the offering.

Other than with respect to the acquisition of the Securities, the initial selling securityholder has not had a material relationship with us.

Information about the selling securityholders may change over time and changed information will be set forth in supplements to this prospectus if and when necessary.

LEGAL MATTERS

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The law firm of Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP will pass on the validity the Series A Preferred Stock, the Warrant and the common stock offered hereby.

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The consolidated financial statements incorporated in this prospectus by reference from our Annual Report on Form 10-K as of December 31, 2007 and 2006 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2007 and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2007 have been incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information on its public reference

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room. Our SEC filings are also available to you on the SEC's Internet website at <http://www.sec.gov>. We make available free of charge through our website at <http://www.bankri.com> all reports we electronically file with, or furnish to, the SEC, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K, as well as any amendments to those reports, as soon as reasonably practicable after those documents are filed with, or furnished to, the SEC.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the SEC. The registration statement contains more information than this prospectus regarding us and our common stock, including certain exhibits and schedules, as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. As a result, statements made in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document are not necessarily complete. You should read the full text of any contract or document filed as a schedule or exhibit to the registration statement for a more complete understanding of the contract or document involved. You can obtain a copy of the registration statement from the SEC at the address listed above or from the SEC's Internet website.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents that we have previously filed with the SEC or documents that we will file with the SEC in the future. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. This prospectus incorporates by reference the following documents set forth below that we have previously filed with the SEC:

- (1) Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007;
- (2) Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2008, June 30, 2008 and September 30, 2008;
- (3) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated February 3, 2009.
- (4) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 30, 2009
- (5) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 29, 2009
- (6) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated January 13, 2009

- (7) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 22, 2008;
- (8) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated December 3, 2008;
- (9) Our Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 17, 2008;
- (10) Our definitive Proxy Statement filed on April 3, 2008 in connection with our annual meeting of shareholders held on May 21, 2008;
- (11) The description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement filed under Section 12 of the Exchange Act on Form 8-A, including all amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description; and
- (12) Our Registration Statement on Form S-4, SEC File No. 333-33182.

All documents filed by us pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the initial filing of the registration statement that contains this prospectus and prior to the date of the termination of the offering of the common stock offered hereby shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this registration statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. Any statement contained herein or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any document which is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

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We will provide without charge to each person to whom a prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request of any such person, a copy of any or all of the foregoing documents incorporated herein by reference (other than exhibits to such documents). Written requests should be directed to Chief Financial Officer, Bank Rhode Island, One Turks Head Place, Providence, Rhode Island 02903. Telephone requests may be directed to (401) 456-5000.

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No person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representation other than as contained in this prospectus and, if given or made, such other information or representation must not be relied upon as having been authorized by Bancorp Rhode Island, Inc. This prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any of the Securities offered hereby to any person in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so, or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. Neither the delivery of this prospectus nor any sale hereunder shall under any circumstances create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of Bancorp Rhode Island, Inc. since any of the dates as of which information is furnished herein or since the date hereof.

**Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A
Warrant to Purchase 192,967 shares of common stock
192,967 shares of common stock**

PROSPECTUS

February 11, 2009

The Securities are not deposits or savings accounts or obligations of any bank and are not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.
