

OMB APPROVAL
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HOURS PER RESPONSE.....14.90

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. _____) *

J. Baker, Inc.

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

(Title Of Class of Securities)

057232100

(CUSIP Number)

Check the following box if a fee is being paid with this statement [x]. (A fee is not required only if the filing person: (1) has a previous statement on file reporting beneficial ownership of more than five percent of the class of securities described in Item 1; and (2) has filed no amendment subsequent thereto reporting beneficial ownership of five percent or less of such class.) (See Rule 13d-7).

*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

CUSIP NO. 057232100 13G PAGE 2 OF 8 PAGES

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
S.S OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP* Joint Filing

(a) []

(b) []

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

5 SOLE VOTING POWER

None

6 SHARED VOTING POWER

934,599

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

None

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

934,599

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

934,599

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

6.8%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

HC, CO

*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILLING OUT!

CUSIP NO. 057232100

13G

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1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

S.S OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Merrill Lynch Group, Inc.

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP* Joint Filing

(a)

(b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

5 SOLE VOTING POWER

None

6 SHARED VOTING POWER

933,500

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

None

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

933,500

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

933,500

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

6.8%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

HC, CO

*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILLING OUT!

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
S.S OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Princeton Services, Inc.

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP* Joint Filing

(a) []

(b) []

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

5 SOLE VOTING POWER

None

6 SHARED VOTING POWER

933,500

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

None

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

933,500

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

933,500

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

6.8%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

HC, CO

*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILLING OUT!

SCHEDULE 13G

Item 1 (a) Name of Issuer:

J. Baker, Inc.

Item 1 (b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

55 Turnpike Street
Canton, MA 02021

Item 2 (a) Names of Persons Filing:

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.
Merrill Lynch Group, Inc.
Princeton Services, Inc.

Item 2 (b) Address of Principal Business Office, or, if None, Residence:

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.
World Financial Center, North Tower
250 Vesey Street
New York, New York 10281

Merrill Lynch Group, Inc.
World Financial Center, North Tower
250 Vesey Street
New York, New York 10281

Princeton Services, Inc.
800 Scudders Mill Road
Plainsboro, New Jersey 08536

Item 2 (c) Citizenship:

See Item 4 of Cover Pages

Item 2 (d) Title of Class of Securities:

Common Stock

Item 2 (e) CUSIP Number:

057232100

Item 3

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. ("ML&Co."), Merrill Lynch Group, Inc. ("ML Group") and Princeton Services, Inc. ("PSI") are parent holding companies, in accordance with (S) 240.13d-1(b)(ii)(G).

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Item 4 Ownership

(a) Amount Beneficially Owned:

See Item 9 of Cover Pages. Pursuant to (S) 240.13d-4, ML&Co., ML Group and PSI (the "Reporting Persons") disclaim beneficial ownership of the securities of J. Baker, Inc. referred to herein, and the filing of this Schedule 13G shall not be construed as an admission that the Reporting Companies are, for the purposes of Section 13(d) or 13(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act"), the beneficial owner of any securities of J. Baker, Inc. covered by this statement, other than certain securities of J. Baker Inc. held in MLPF&S, proprietary accounts.

(b) Percent of Class:

See Item 11 of Cover Pages

(c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

(i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote:

See Item 5 of Cover Pages

(ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote:

See Item 6 of Cover Pages

(iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:

See Item 7 of Cover Pages

(iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:

See Item 8 of Cover Pages

Item 5 Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

Not Applicable

Item 6 Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

Princeton Services, Inc. acts as the general partner of Merrill Lynch Asset Management, L.P. (d/b/a Merrill Lynch Asset Management) and Fund Asset Management, Inc., each of which are investment advisers registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and act as investment advisers to investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. With respect to securities held by those investment companies, several persons have the right to receive, or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, such securities. No such

person's interest relates to more than 5% of the class of securities reported herein.

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- Item 7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which

Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding

Company.

See Exhibit A
- Item 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not Applicable
- Item 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not Applicable
- Item 10 Certification.

By signing below each of the undersigned certifies that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purposes or effect.

Signature.
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After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, each of the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: February , 1994 Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

/s/ David L. Dick

Name: David L. Dick
Title: Assistant Secretary

Merrill Lynch Group, Inc.

/s/ David L. Dick

Name: David L. Dick
Title: Secretary

Princeton Services, Inc.

/s/ David L. Dick

Name: David L. Dick
Title: Attorney-in-Fact*

* Signed pursuant to a power of attorney, dated February 10, 1994, included as an exhibit to Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., et. al. on February 14, 1994 with respect to Dial REIT Inc.

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EXHIBIT A TO SCHEDULE 13G

ITEM 7 DISCLOSURE RESPECTING SUBSIDIARIES

Three of the persons filing this report, Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at World Financial

Center, North Tower, 250 Vesey Street, New York, New York ("ML&Co."), Merrill Lynch Group, Inc., a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at World Financial Center, North Tower, 250 Vesey Street, New York, New York ("ML Group"), and Princeton Services, Inc. ("PSI"), a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 800 Scudders Mill Road, Plainsboro, New Jersey, are parent holding companies pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G). Pursuant to the instructions in Item 7 of Schedule 13G, the relevant subsidiaries of ML&Co. are Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S"), ML Group and PSI, which is the general partner of Merrill Lynch Asset Management L.P., (d/b/a Merrill Lynch Asset Management ("MLAM") and Fund Asset Management, L.P. ("FAM"). The relevant subsidiary of ML Group is PSI.

MLPF&S, a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 250 Vesey Street, New York, New York, is a wholly-owned direct subsidiary of ML&Co. and a broker-dealer registered under Section 15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

ML Group, a wholly-owned direct subsidiary of ML&Co., may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of 6.8% of the securities of J. Baker, Inc. by virtue of its control of its wholly-owned subsidiary, PSI.

PSI, a wholly-owned direct subsidiary of ML Group, may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of 6.8% of the securities of J. Baker, Inc. by virtue of its being the general partner of MLAM and FAM.

Pursuant to (S) 240.13d-4, ML&Co., ML Group, MLPF&S, PSI, MLAM, and FAM disclaim beneficial ownership of the securities of the Company, and the filing of this Schedule 13G shall not be construed as an admission that any such entity is for the purposes of Section 13(d) or 13(g) of the Act, the beneficial owner of any securities of the Issuer, other than, in the case of ML & Co. and MLPF&S, securities of the Issuer held by MLPF&S in proprietary accounts.