MCDONALD MICHAEL F

Form 4

January 22, 2009

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

3235-0287

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January 31, Expires: 2005

OMB APPROVAL

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subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations

may continue.

See Instruction

if no longer

Check this box

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading MCDONALD MICHAEL F Issuer Symbol Ameris Bancorp [ABCB] (Check all applicable) (First) (Middle) (Last) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify P.O. BOX 3668 01/20/2009 below) SVP & Director of Retail Bnkg (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

MOULTRIE, GA 31776

(City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 1. Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 3. 4. Securities 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if TransactionAcquired (A) or Securities Form: Direct Indirect (Instr. 3) Code Disposed of (D) Beneficially (D) or Indirect Beneficial (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Ownership (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Owned (T) Following (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Reported (A) Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

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

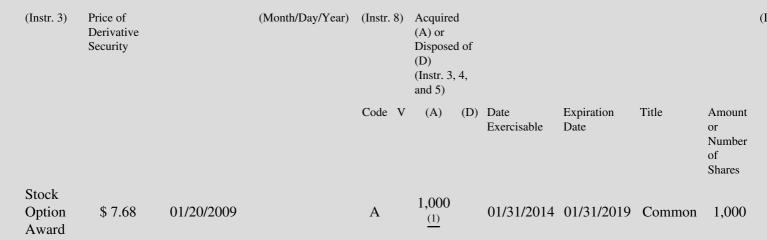
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Person

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5. Number	6. Date Exercisable and	7. Title and Amount of	8.
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transaction Derivative		Expiration Date	Underlying Securities	D
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	Securities	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 3 and 4)	S

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Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

MCDONALD MICHAEL F P.O. BOX 3668 MOULTRIE, GA 31776

SVP & Director of Retail Bnkg

Signatures

Michael F. McDonald, by Cara P. Horne, Attorney-In-Fact

01/22/2009

**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).
- Options issued under Ameris Bancorp Omnibus Stock Ownership and Long-Term Incentive Plan. Up to 20% of the total option grant amount may vest annually based upon the achievement of annual performance benchmarks.

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.

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