

Ameris Bancorp
Form 4
April 29, 2016

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 *
LEWIS CINDI H

(Last) (First) (Middle)

PO BOX 3668

(Street)

MOULITRE, GA 31776

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
Ameris Bancorp [ABCB]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
04/29/2016

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 & CAO

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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | (A) or (D) Code V Amount (D) Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 04/28/2016 | | M | 823 A \$ 20.18 | 60,148.4016 (2) | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | 676 | I | Spouse |

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

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SEC 1474 (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) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| ABCB Incentive Stock Option | \$ 20.18 ⁽¹⁾ | 04/29/2016 | | M | 823 ⁽¹⁾ | 05/16/2011 05/16/2016 | Common | 823 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| LEWIS CINDI H PO BOX 3668 MOULITRE, GA 31776 | | | EVP & CAO | |

Signatures

Cindi H. Lewis by Angela A. Redd,
 Attorney-In-Fact 04/29/2016

**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).
 On May 16, 2006, the reporting person was granted an option to purchase 4,000 shares of common stock at an exercise price of \$20.76. The options vested in five equal installments based on the achievement of certain annual performance benchmarks. The performance criteria for 2007 was met, however, years 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 were not met. The number of options outstanding and the exercise price were adjusted to reflect the stock dividends that were issued on October 10, 2009, January 10, 2010, April 10, 2010 and July 10, 2010.
- (2) This total includes 15.4448 shares acquired by the reporting person as a participant in an employee stock purchase dividend reinvestment plan.

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.