

HARDWICK MARK K  
Form 4  
March 24, 2008

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**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 \*  
HARDWICK MARK K

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
FIRST MERCHANTS CORP  
[FRME]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
200 EAST JACKSON STREET

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
03/20/2008

\_\_\_\_ Director  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Other (specify below)  
Executive Vice President / Chief Financial Officer

(Street)  
MUNCIE, IN 47305

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
Common Stock <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(2)</sup> <sub>(3)</sub> <sub>(4)</sub>	03/20/2008		M	578 A	\$ 18.28	8,848	D
Common Stock	03/20/2008		D	358 D	\$ 29.44	8,490	D
Common Stock	03/20/2008		M	1,736 A	\$ 19.73	10,226	D
Common Stock	03/20/2008		D	1,142 D	\$ 29.44	9,084	D

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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)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Following Transaction (Instr. 5)
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**Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
HARDWICK MARK K 200 EAST JACKSON STREET MUNCIE, IN 47305			Executive Vice President	Chief Financial Officer

**Signatures**

Larry R. Helms (Confirming Statement on File) 03/24/2008  
\*\*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) Employee Stock Option - Right to Buy equals 47,968 shares after exercises reported herewith.
- (2) Shares owned by spouse (IRA account): 401
- (3) Additional common stock beneficially owned by reporting person in 401K account on 12/31/2007 equals 2,477.4155.
- (4) Includes 2,700 shares of restricted stock owned and reported on 3/21/2008.

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.